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**PHIL LINDSAY  
HIS BOOK**

The  
*New & Complete*  
NEWGATE CALENDAR;  
— or —  
*VILLANY DISPLAYED*  
*In all its Branches.*

*Containing Accounts of the most Notorious Malefactors  
From the Year 1700 to the Present Time.*  
By W<sup>m</sup> JACKSON, Esq.<sup>r</sup>



LONDON :

*Published by ALEX<sup>r</sup> HOGG, at the Kings Arms, (N<sup>o</sup> 10) Paten Noster Row.*

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The first part of the document  
 discusses the general principles  
 of the system and the  
 various methods of  
 application. It is  
 divided into several  
 sections, each dealing  
 with a different aspect  
 of the subject. The  
 first section is  
 devoted to the  
 theory of the  
 system, and the  
 second to the  
 practical  
 details of its  
 use. The third  
 section is  
 a summary of  
 the whole, and  
 the fourth  
 contains some  
 remarks on the  
 value of the  
 system. The  
 fifth section  
 is a list of  
 the names of  
 the persons  
 who have  
 been  
 consulted  
 in the  
 preparation  
 of this  
 work.





The Recorder making the Report of the capital Convicts  
to His Majesty in Council .

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# New Newgate Calendar;

O R;

## VILLANY DISPLAYED IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

FROM THE YEAR 1700 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

*Embellished with a Set of Entire New Copper Plates.*

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### REMARKS PRELIMINARY.

**I**T being the professed intention of the Compiler of this Work to exert his utmost endeavours to unite *entertainment* and *improvement*, he thinks it absolutely necessary to apprise the reader that he does not mean to swell his volumes with recitals of accounts of trials, convictions, &c. that have nothing interesting to recommend them: on the contrary, it is his intention to insert in this *New Collection* such *narratives* only as become *valuable* from the *singular circumstances* with which they were attended; and not a single event of this nature, since the commencement of the present century, shall remain unrecorded.

It being required by the laws of our country; "that the truth, the *whole* truth, and nothing but "the truth," should be told, the occasional deviations, therefore, in respect to the brevity of the language, must, in some instances, be excusable. It is to be remembered that the expressions are not the Compilers; and seeing that it behoves

reporters as much as witnesses to adhere to the truth; the repetition of them is therefore unavoidable. In like manner the Compiler may be obliged (unwilling as he is) to give the *cant phrases* of thieves; for in many instances, if the witnesses' depositions be not faithfully recorded, the narrative may be so imperfect, as to be scarcely intelligible. The utility of being so exact is the best apology for reviving any vulgar expressions, for thereby the honest and unwary are put upon their guard, and apprized of all the secret-craft of those low-lived sons of depredation; while youth is likewise forewarned of those destructive pursuits, the end of which is in general fatal and ignominious!

The Compiler of this *New* work returns his sincerest thanks to those gentlemen who have communicated either printed or manuscript *trials* and *narratives*, which may tend to the perfection of his plan; and he assures his worthy contributors that their favours have not been conferred on one ungrateful. Every prudent use shall be made of their communications, it being presumed that the public will reap an advantage, from what was intended as a private compliment.

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*Circumstantial Account of the Trials, Declarations, and Executions of* MICHAËL VAN BERGHEN, CATHERINE VAN BERGHEN, and GERARD DROMELIUS, *in East Smithfield, for the Murder of* OLIVER NORRIS.

THE wretched subjects of this narrative were natives of Holland, but having settled in England, Michael Van Berghen and his wife



wife kept a public-house near East-Smithfield; and Dromelius acted as their servant.

One Norris, a country gentleman, who lodged at an inn near Aldgate, went into the house of Van-Berghen, about eight o'clock in the evening, and continued to drink there till about eleven. Finding himself rather intoxicated, he desired the maid-servant to call a coach to carry him home. As she was going to do so, her mistress whispered her; and bid her return in a little time, and say that a coach was not to be procured. These directions being observed, Norris, on the maid's return, resolved to go without a coach, and accordingly took his leave of the family; but he had not gone far before he discovered that he had been robbed of a purse containing a sum of money: whereupon he returned, and charged Van-Berghen and his wife with having been guilty of the robbery. This they positively denied, and threatened to turn him out of the house; but he refused to go, and resolutely went into a room where the cloth was laid for supper.

At this time Dromelius entered the room, and treating Mr. Norris in a very cavalier manner; the latter resented the insult, till a perfect quarrel ensued. At this juncture Van-Berghen seized a poker, with which he fractured Mr. Norris's skull, and in the mean time Dromelius stabbed him in different parts of the body; Mrs. Van-Berghen being present during the perpetration of the horrid act.

When Mr. Norris was dead, they stripped him of his coat, waistcoat, hat, wig, &c. and then Van-Berghen and Dromelius carried the body, and threw it into a ditch which communicated with the Thames: and in the mean time Mrs.

Van-Berghen washed the blood of the deceased from the floor of the room. The cloaths which had been stripped from the deceased were put up in a hamper, and committed to the care of Dromelius, who took a boat, and carried them over to Rotherhithe, where he employed the waterman to carry the hamper to lodgings which he had taken, and in which he proposed to remain until he could find a favourable opportunity of embarking for Holland.

The next morning at low water, the body of a gentleman was found, and several of the neighbours went to take a view of it, and endeavoured to try if they could trace any blood to the place where the murder might have been committed; but not succeeding in this, some of them, who were up at a very early hour, recollected that they had seen Van-Berghen and Dromelius coming almost from the spot where the body was found; and remarked that a light had been carried backwards and forwards in Van-Berghen's house.

Upon this the house was searched; but no discovery was made, except that a little blood was found behind the door of a room which appeared to have been lately mopped. Enquiry was made after Dromelius; but Van-Berghen and his wife would give no other account than that he had left their service: on which they were taken into custody, with the servant-maid, who was the principal evidence against them. At this juncture the waterman who had carried Dromelius to Rotherhithe, and who knew him very well, appeared and was likewise taken into custody.

On the trial all the circumstances above mentioned appeared so striking to the jury, that they did not hesitate to find the prisoners guilty, and accordingly

accordingly they received sentence of death. The prisoners were tried by a jury of half Englishmen and half foreigners; a generous and candid mode of proceeding peculiar to the criminal courts of this country.

Dromelius after condemnation, and a short time before the day of execution, assured the ordinary of Newgate that the murder was committed by himself, and was preceded and followed by these circumstances: That Mr. Norris being very much in liquor, and desirous of going to his inn, Mr. Van-Berghen directed him to attend him thither; that soon after they left the house, Norris went into a broken building to ease himself; where using opprobrious language to Dromelius, and attempting to draw his sword, he wrested it from his hand, and stabbed him with it in several places; that this being done, Norris groaned very much; and Dromelius hearing a watchman coming, and fearing a discovery, drew a knife, cut his throat, and thereby put an end to his life. In answer to this it was said, that the story was altogether improbable; for if Mr. Norris had been killed in the manner above mentioned, some blood would have been found on the spot, and there would have been holes in his cloaths from the stabbing; neither of which was the case. Still, however, Dromelius persisted in his declaration, with a view to save the life of his mistress, with whom he was thought to have had a criminal connection; and indeed he confessed that he had been too familiar with this woman.

Mr. and Mrs. Van-Berghen were attended at the place of execution by some divines of their own country, as well as English clergymen; and desired the prayers of them all. Mr. Van-Berghen, unable to speak intelligibly in English,  
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conversed in Latin; a circumstance from which it may be inferred that he had been educated in a stile superior to the rank of life which he had lately held. He said that the murder was not committed in his house, and that he knew no more of it, than that Dromelius came to him, while he lay in bed, informed him that he had wounded the gentleman, and begged him to aid his escape; but that when he knew Mr. Norris was murdered, he offered money to some persons to pursue the murderer; but this circumstance, which might have been favourable to him, was not proved on his trial.

Mrs. Van-Berghen also solemnly declared that she knew nothing of the murder till after it was perpetrated, which was not in their house; that Dromelius coming into the chamber, and saying he had murdered the gentleman, she went for the hamper to hold the bloody cloaths, and assisted Dromelius in his escape, a circumstance which would not be deemed criminal in her country. This was, however, an artful plea: for, in Holland, accessaries before or after the fact are accounted as principals.

Dromelius, when at the place of execution, persisted in his former tale; but desired the prayers of the surrounding multitude, whom he warned to beware of the indulgence of violent passions, to which he then fell an untimely sacrifice.

These criminals were executed near the Hartshorn brew-house, East-Smithfield, being the nearest convenient spot to the place where the murder was committed, on the tenth of July, in the year 1700. The men were hung in chains between Bow and Mile-end; but the woman was buried.

From the above narrative an important lesson may be learnt, particularly by our country readers.

Mr.

Mr. Norris was a country gentleman; the house kept by Van-Berghen was, at the best, of very doubtful fame. Country gentlemen, when called to London on business, should be particularly cautious never to enter such a house. If this unhappy gentleman had gone only where business called him, he might have escaped the fatal catastrophe that befel him, and have long lived to bless his family and friends, and be a credit to his country and self.

In bringing to light the murder above mentioned, the intervention of Providence is obvious. Every possible care was taken to conceal it, yet blood was found in the room where the murder was committed; and the thoughtlessness of Dromelius, respecting the waterman, contributed to lead to a ready discovery of the fact. Nothing is hid from the all-seeing eye of God! Let the righteous justice executed on the malefactors above mentioned impress on the minds of all our readers the force of the sixth commandment.

“Thou shalt do no MURDER.”

*Complete Narrative of the Life, Trial, and Execution of JOHN SIMPSON, alias JOHN HOLLIDAY, who was hanged at Tyburn for Burglary,*

JOHN SIMPSON was not so much distinguished by any particular circumstance that attended the crime of which he was convicted, as by the peculiarities of his former life, which are well worthy the perusal of the reader.

Most

The chief part of this narrative is taken from his own declarations while under sentence of death, and the rest from authentic papers. During a great part of the war in the reign of king William he was a soldier in Flanders, where he used to take frequent opportunities of robbing the tents of the officers; and once when the army lay before Mons, and his majesty commanded in person, Simpson happened to be one of those who were selected to guard the royal tent. On an evening when the king, accompanied by the earl (afterwards duke) of Marlborough, and lord Cutts, went out to take a view of the situation of the army, Simpson, with a degree of impudence peculiar to himself, went into his majesty's tent, and stole about a thousand pounds. It was some days before this money was missed, and when the robbery was discovered Simpson escaped all suspicion. He said he had committed more robberies than he could possibly recollect, having been a highwayman as well as a house-breaker.

He committed numerous robberies in Flanders, as well as in England, and he affirmed that the gates of the city of Ghent had been twice shut up within a fortnight to prevent his escape, and that when he was taken his arms, legs, back, and neck were secured with irons; in which condition he was carried through the streets, that he might be seen by the crowd.

Simpson, and two of his companions, used frequently to stop and rob the Roman Catholics at five o'clock in the morning, as they were going to mass; he repeatedly broke into the churches of Brussels, Mechlin and Antwerp, and stole the silver plate from the altar.

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This offender further acknowledged, that having killed one of his companions in a quarrel, he was apprehended, tried, and condemned, for the fact, by a court-martial of officers, and sentenced to be executed on the following day, in sight of the army, which was to be drawn up to see the execution. During the night, however, he found means to escape, and took refuge in the church of St. Peter, in Ghent, where the army then lay. Being thus in a place of sanctuary, he applied to the priests, who made interest with prince Eugene; and their joint intercession with king William, who arrived in the city about four days afterwards, obtained his full pardon, and he was permitted immediately to join the army.

One would imagine that the obligations he had to those priests would have inspired him with sentiments of gratitude; but this was far from being the case, that, in a few days after he had obtained his pardon, he broke into the church, and robbed it of plate to the value of twelve hundred pounds; which he was the better enabled to do, as he was acquainted with the avenues of the church, and knew where the plate was deposited. He was apprehended on suspicion of this sacrilege; for as a crime of this kind is seldom committed by the natives of the country, it was conjectured that it must have been perpetrated by some one, at least, of the soldiers; and information being given that two Jews had embarked in a boat on the Scheldt, for Middleburgh, on the day succeeding the robbery, and that Simpson had been seen in company with these Jews, this occasioned his being taken into custody; but as no proof arose that he had sold any plate to these men, it was thought necessary to dismiss him.

The army being ordered to England, and the regiment reduced, in consequence of the peace of Ryfwick, in the year 1697, Simpson was among those who were discharged, and with him were likewise dismissed some of those who had been concerned with him in his depredations in Flanders.

There is no wonder that those who had associated together abroad should join to perpetrate acts of villany in their native country; and accordingly, we find that Simpson and his companions were concerned in a great number of robberies on the roads near London, Simpson being chosen as the leader of the gang, and dignified by the title of captain. When they were unsuccessful on the highway, they had recourse to house-breaking: and they continued these practices for about three years, during which period several of Simpson's companions were apprehended, tried, convicted, and executed.

Soon after Simpson himself was taken into custody, and indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in the month of July, 1700, for breaking open the dwelling-house of Elizabeth Gawden, and stealing two feather-beds, and other articles. To this indictment he pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death. He declared that he had never murdered any person in consequence of his robberies; but that he had killed four or five men in private quarrels. He was executed at Tyburn, on the 20th of July, 1700, having first declared that his real name was John Holliday, and that he had broken out of Newgate about Christmas preceding the last apprehension.

The melancholy end of this malefactor presents a striking lesson of caution to two kinds of people,



people, viz. those of his own rank who are out of the army, and those that are in. The former will see that in this instance, as in every other, the paths of vice lead to destruction: the latter will, we trust, be taught to learn obedience to their superiors; for if this offender had been properly impressed with a sense of that duty, the robbing of his king could never have entered his imagination. The crime of sacrilege, of which he was repeatedly guilty, has been held in universal abhorrence by all civilized nations, and is justly punished in the severest manner. Many years have now elapsed since his offences brought him to a deplorable end; but it is to be hoped that the distance of time will not weaken the impression: since what was worthy of regard, and proper to enforce serious ideas, at the beginning of this century, cannot be less so at the present moment. Some good end may be answered, some good resolution formed, by reading any single trial in these volumes; and we trust that those who shall peruse them all, will find their hearts amended while their minds are entertained, and that they will become wiser and better while they seek instructions from the calamities of others.

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*Full Account of the Life, Intrigues, Crimes, &c. of  
GEORGE CADDELL, who was executed at  
Stafford, for the Murder of ELIZABETH PRICE,  
his Mistress.*

**G**EORGE CADDELL was a native of the town of Broomsgrove in Worcester-shire, at which place he was articled to an apothecary, with whom he served his time, and then repaired

to London, where he walked several of the hospitals, to give him an insight into the art of surgery.

Having obtained a tolerable proficiencie herein, he retired from London, and went to Worcester, where he lived with Mr. Randall, a capital surgeon of that city; and in this situation he was equally admired for the depth of his abilities, and the amiableness of his temper. Here he married the daughter of Mr. Randall, who died in labour of her first child.

After this melancholy event he went to reside at Litchfield, and continued upwards of two years with Mr. Dean, a surgeon of that place. During his residence here, he courted the daughter of that gentleman, to whom he would probably have been soon married, but for the commission of the following crime which cost him his life.

A young lady named Elizabeth Price, who had been debauched by an officer in the army, lived near Mr. Caddell's place of residence; and, after her misfortune, supported herself by her skill in needle-work. Caddell becoming acquainted with her, a considerable degree of intimacy subsisted between them; and Miss Price, degraded as she was by the unfortunate step she had taken, still thought herself an equal match for one of Mr. Caddell's rank of life.

This young lady now informed Caddell that a pregnancy was the consequence of their connections; and repeatedly urged him to marry her, to prevent her being a second time disgraced in the eyes of the public.

Mr. Caddell resisted her importunities for a considerable time; at last Miss Price heard of his paying his addresses to Miss Dean; on which she be-  
came

came more importunate than ever, and threatened that if he refused his consent to wed her, she would put an end to all his prospects with that young lady, by discovering every thing that had passed between them.

It was on this unhappy occasion that Caddell formed the horrid resolution of murdering Miss Price; for he could neither bear the thought of forfeiting the esteem of a woman that he courted, nor of marrying her who had granted the last favour to at least one other man, as well as himself.

This dreadful scheme having entered his head, he called on Miss Price on a Saturday evening, and requested that she would walk in the fields with him on the afternoon of the following day, in order to adjust the plan of their intended marriage. Miss Price thus deluded now thought the wound in her reputation would be healed, and on the following day she met him on the road leading towards Burton upon Trent, at a house known by the sign of the Nag's Head.

Having accompanied her supposed lover into the fields, and walked about till towards evening, they then sat down under a hedge, where having spent some time in conversation, he pulled out a knife, cut her throat, and made his escape; but not before he had waited till she was dead,

Caddell, however, in the distraction of his mind, left behind him the knife with which he had perpetrated the deed, together with his case of instruments. When he came home it was observed that he appeared exceedingly confused; though the reason of the perturbation of his mind could not even be guessed at. But on the following morning Miss Price being found murdered in the field,

field, great numbers of people went to take a view of the body, among whom was the woman of the house where she lodged, who recollected that she had said she was going to walk with Mr. Caddell; on which the instruments were examined, and known to have belonged to him: whereupon he was taken into custody, and committed to the jail of Stafford; and being soon afterwards tried, he was found guilty, condemned, and executed, at Stafford, on the 21st of July, 1700.

There is no particular account of the behaviour of this malefactor while under sentence of death, or at the place of execution; yet his fate will afford an instructive lesson to youth. Let no young man who has connections of any kind with one woman, think of paying his addressee to another. There can be no such thing as honourable courtship, while dishonourable love subsists. Mr. Caddell might have lived a credit to himself, and an ornament to his profession, if he had not held a criminal connection with Miss Price. Her fate ought to impress on the minds of our female readers the importance of modest reserve to a woman. We would not be severe on the failings of the sex; but we cannot help observing, that a woman, who has fallen a sacrifice to the arts of one man, should be very cautious in yielding to the addressee of another. One false step may be recovered; but the progress of vice is a down-hill road; and the farther we depart from the paths of virtue, still the faster we run. On the contrary, the ways of virtue are pleasant, "and all her paths are paths of peace." From this story likewise the young officers of our army and navy may learn an useful lesson; for if Miss Price had not been debauched by one of that pro-

profession, the fatal catastrophe above mentioned had never happened.

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*A full and particular Account of the Life, Amours, Behaviour, and Execution of GEORGE GRIFFITHS; who suffered at Tyburn, for privately stealing from his Master; whose Daughter he endeavoured to deceive.*

**M**R. GRIFFITHS was the son of an apothecary of extensive practice at Thetford, in the county of Norfolk. After receiving the rudiments of his education at the grammar school of the town above mentioned, he was articled as a clerk to an attorney of eminence in London, and soon became distinguished for his attention to, and knowledge of business. His father dying during his clerkship, and having a large family, left his son George only about an hundred pounds.

This young man as soon as his clerkship was expired, contracted with his master to manage his business for a certain annual stipend: and he discharged his duty for a considerable time with great regularity; but unhappily becoming acquainted with some young lawyers who possessed more money than discretion, he soon spent the little fortune which his father had bequeathed to him, and also became indebted to several of his master's employers.

During great part of Griffiths's servitude, the only daughter of his employer had been at a boarding-school at Windsor for the advantage of education; and now returning home, her father, who was uncommonly tender of her, requested  
that

that she would take his domestic affairs under her own management.

This old gentleman being frequently about from home, the business of the office was committed, to the care of Mr. Griffiths; and an intimacy soon ensued between him and the young lady, in whose company he spent all those evenings in which he had not particular engagements with his old associates. The consequence was that their acquaintance ripened into esteem; their esteem into love. The reciprocal declaration soon took place, and the young lady considered Mr. Griffiths as the man who was to be her future husband.

Some short time after this attachment, Griffiths was under the necessity of attending his master on the Norfolk circuit, and while he was in the country he held a constant correspondence with the young lady; but the father was totally unacquainted with all that had passed, and had not formed the least idea that his daughter had any kind of connection with his clerk; but at length the circumstance of the affair transpired in the following manner.

The daughter having gone to Windsor for a few days, on a visit to her former acquaintance, continued to correspond with Mr. Griffiths. On a particular day when Griffiths was not at home, it happened that a letter was brought to the office, directed to this unfortunate man; when one of the clerks, imagining that it might be of consequence, carried it to the master, at an adjacent coffee-house. It is impossible that any language should express the surprize of the old gentleman, when he saw the name of his daughter subscribed to a letter, in which she acknowledged herself as the future wife of the clerk.

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The father knew that Griffiths had no fortune : but he soon found that he had been master of sufficient art, to prevail on the daughter to believe that he was possessed of considerable property. Hereupon he represented to his daughter the great impropriety of her conduct ; in answer to which she said that Mr. Griffiths was a man of fortune, though he had hitherto carefully concealed this circumstance from her father. However, it was not long before a discovery was made, which represented Mr. Griffith's situation in a light equally new and contemptible.

His master for a considerable time past had acted as the solicitor in a capital cause depending in Chancery ; but the determination respecting it had been put off; on account of lord Sommers being removed from the office of chancellor, and the great seal given in commission to Sir Nathan Wright. The solicitor had received immense sums while the cause was depending, which he had committed to the care of his clerk : but the latter, pressed for cash to supply his extravagance, purloined some of this money. At length the cause was determined, and Griffiths was called upon to account with his master for the money in his hands.

Alarmed at this sudden demand, he knew not what course to take. He was already considerably indebted to different people, and had not a friend to whom he could apply for as much money as was deficient in his accounts : but being driven to the utmost necessity, he came to the resolution of breaking open his master's bureau, which he did while the family were asleep, and stole a considerable sum of money ; but as nothing else but money was stolen, Griffiths would very probably

have escaped suspicion, had he not been tempted to a repetition of his crime.

At this time the old gentleman and his daughter went to Tunbridge; and during their residence at that place of amusement, Griffiths procured a key that would unlock his master's bureau, from whence he again took money to a considerable amount. On the master's return, he missed this sum; but still he did not suspect Griffiths, as the drawer was found locked: but hereupon he deposited his jewels in the bureau, but locked up his money in another place.

The amour betwixt Griffiths and the young lady still continued; and they would soon have been married at the Fleet, but that a fatal circumstance now arose, which (happily for her) brought their connection to a period.

Griffiths being (as already observed) possessed of a key that would open his master's bureau, and disposed to go out and spend a chearful evening with his old associates now during their absence, opened the drawer, but was greatly disappointed in not meeting with the money that was usually left there; finding, however, jewels in its stead, he stole a diamond ring, which he carried to a jeweller and sold for twelve pounds; and then went to spend his evening as he had intended. The old lawyer came home about ten o'clock at night, and casually looking into his drawer, found the ring was gone; and being enraged at this renewed robbery, he had every person in the house carefully searched; but no discovery was made.

Griffiths did not return till a late hour, and on the following day his employer told him what had happened, and requested that he would go to the several jewelers' shops, and make enquiry for the lost ring. Griffiths pretended an obedi-

ence



ence, and when he returned, acquainted his master that all his enquiries respecting it had been ineffectual.

However, a discovery of the party who had been guilty of the robbery was made in the following singular manner. The jeweller who had bought the ring frequented the same coffee-house with the gentleman who had lost it, and was intimately acquainted with him, though he knew nothing of Griffiths. Now the jeweller, having carefully examined the ring after he had bought it, and therefore concluded that it had been obtained in an illegal manner. Being a man who was much above the idea of having his integrity suspected, he related the particulars of his purchase at the coffee-house, which the person who had lost the ring hearing, desired to have a sight of it; and, on the first inspection, knew it to be that which he had lost.

The person of Griffiths was now so exactly described by the jeweller, that there could be little doubt but that he was the thief; wherefore he was desired to go to the chambers with a constable, and take him into custody, if he appeared to be the man who had sold the ring. As this was really the case, he was carried before a justice of the peace, and accused of the crime, which he immediately confessed, and likewise that he had robbed his master of money, in the manner we have already related.

Griffiths in consequence hereof was committed to Newgate, and being arraigned at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty to the indictment, and sentence of death was passed on him accordingly.

As in his situation it was natural to suppose  
 D 2. that

that he would attempt to correspond with the young lady to whom he had aspired as a wife, a proper person was employed by her father to intercept her letters : a service that was performed with such care, that, not one reached her hands, though a considerable number were written.

When Mr. Griffiths found that he had nothing to hope from the intervention of the royal mercy, and consequently that all the views with which he had flattered himself in wedlock were vanished, he began seriously to prepare himself for that state in which persons "neither marry, nor are given in marriage." He very justly attributed his misfortunes to the associating with persons who were his superiors in point of circumstances, and the making an appearance which he was unable to support, in order to secure the object of his wishes.

Many lessons of useful instruction may be learnt from the preceding melancholy narrative. Among the number of our young gentlemen who are sent to the inns of court, some are of considerable fortune ; while others have very scanty stipends ; for it is the ambition of too many parents to place their children in stations in which they cannot support them with the requisite degree of credit till they are enabled to provide for themselves ; and it is possible that this may be the source of many calamities. The wish to provide in a proper manner for our children, is as laudable as it is natural : but many a youth owes his ruin to his being placed in a situation above his reasonable views or expectations

When it happens that a young gentleman, whose circumstances are rather contracted, is sent to one of our inns of court ; instead of frequent-  
ing

ing play-houses and taverns with those of more liberal fortune, he should study with the utmost assiduity the reverend sages of the law, by which, in a few years, he may render himself superior to those who, at the present moment, may look down on him with a degree of contempt.

In respect to the unhappy subject of this narrative, we have only to remark, that a rigid perseverance in the paths of honour might have finally procured him the consummation of his wishes. On a presumption that he was enamoured of his master's daughter, the ready way to have obtained her would have been to have sought the approbation of her father: and, as he appears to have been much confided in by the old gentleman, there seems to be little doubt but that modest perseverance would have ensured his success: be-  
sides, his guilt was increased in proportion to the confidence that his master reposed in him.

Mr. Griffiths was executed at Tyburn, on the first of August, 1700.

Reflecting on his fate severe,  
We own that love has borne its part;  
A tale like this must draw a tear  
From every tender, feeling heart.

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*Particulars of the Life, Atheism, and remarkable Execution of the REV. THOMAS HUNTER, in Edinburgh, for the Murder of two of his young Pupils.*

**T**HIS atrocious offender was born in the county of Fife, and was the son of a rich farmer, who sent him to the University of St. Andrew

Andrew for education. When young Hunter had acquired a good share of classical learning, he was admitted to the degree of master of arts, and began to prosecute his studies in divinity with no small degree of success.

Several of the younger clergymen in Scotland act as tutors to wealthy and distinguished families, till a proper period arrives for their entering into orders, which they never do till they obtain a benefice. While in this rank of life they bear the name of chaplains; and in this station Hunter lived about two years, in the house of Mr. Gordon, a very eminent merchant, and one of the bailies of Edinburgh, which is a rank equal to that of alderman of London.

Mr. Gordon's family consisted of himself, his lady, two sons and a daughter, a young woman who attended Mrs. Gordon and her daughter, the malefactor in question, some clerks and menial servants. To the care of Hunter was committed the education of the two sons; and for a considerable time he discharged his duty in a manner highly satisfactory to the parents, who considered him as a youth of superior genius, and great goodness of heart.

But it happened that a connection took place between Hunter and the young woman above-mentioned, which soon increased to a criminal degree of familiarity; however the correspondence between them was maintained for a considerable time, during which the family was totally ignorant of the affair.

These lovers had gone on undetected so long, that they grew daily less cautious than at the commencement of their amour; and on a particular day, when Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were on a visit,

visit, Hunter and his girl met in their chamber as usual: but having been so incautious as not to make their door fast, the children went into the room, and found them in such a situation as could not admit of any doubt of the nature of their intercourse.

No suspicion was entertained that the children would mention to their parents what had happened; the eldest boy being not quite ten years of age: so that the guilty lovers had not the least idea that a discovery would ensue; but when the children were at supper with their parents, they disclosed so much as left no room to doubt of what had happened. Hereupon the female servant was directed to quit the house on the following day; but Hunter was continued in the family, after making a proper apology for the crime of which he had been guilty, attributing it to the thoughtlessness of youth, and promising never to offend in the same way again.

Hunter from this period entertained the most inveterate hatred to all the children, on whom he determined in his own mind to wreak the most diabolical vengeance. Nothing less than murder was his intention; but it was a considerable time after he had formed this horrid plan before he had an opportunity of carrying it into execution; which he at length in a great degree effected, as will be seen hereafter.

Whenever it was a fine day, he was accustomed to walk in the fields with his pupils for an hour before dinner; and in these excursions the young lady generally attended her brothers. At the period immediately preceding the commission of the fatal fact, Mr. Gordon and his family were at their country retreat very near Edinburgh; and having received an invitation to dine in that city, he

he and his lady proposed to go thither about the time that Hunter usually took his noon-tide walk with the children. Mrs. Hunter was very anxious for all the children to accompany them on this visit; but this was strenuously opposed by her husband; who would consent that only the little girl should attend them.

By this circumstance Hunter's intention of murdering all the three children was frustrated; but he held his resolution of destroying the boys while they were yet in his power. With this view he took them into the fields, and sat down as if to repose himself on the grass. This event took place soon after the middle of the month of August, and Hunter was preparing his knife to put a period to the lives of the children, at the very moment they were busied in catching butterflies, and gathering wild flowers.

Having sharpened his knife, he called the lads to him, and having reprimanded them for acquainting their father and mother of the scene to which they had been witnesses, he said that he would immediately put them to death. Terrified by this threat, the children ran from him: but he immediately followed, and brought them back. He then placed his knee on the body of the one, while he cut the throat of the other with his pen-knife; and then treated the second in the same inhuman manner that he had done the first.

These horrid murders were committed within half a mile of the castle of Edinburgh; and as the deeds were perpetrated in the middle of the day, and in the open fields, it would have been very wonderful indeed, if the murderer had not been immediately taken into custody.

At the time of the murder, it happened that a gentleman was walking on the Castle-hill of Edinburgh,

burgh, who had a tolerably perfect view of what passed. Alarmed by the incident, the gentleman called some people, who ran with him to the place where the children were lying dead: but by this time the murderer had advanced towards a river, with a view to drown himself. Those who pursued, came up with him just as he reached the brink of the river: and his person being immediately known to them, a messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who were at that moment going to dinner with their friend, to inform them of the horrid deed that had been perpetrated by this wicked man.

Language is too weak to describe the effects resulting from the communication of this dreadful news: the astonishment of the afflicted father, the agony of the mother's grief, may possibly be conceived, though it cannot be painted.

Mr. Hunter being now in custody, it is requisite that we give an account of the proceedings against him, and of the punishment that followed his offence.

According to an old Scottish law it was decreed; that "if a murderer should be taken with the blood of the murdered person on his cloaths, he should be prosecuted in the sheriff's court, and executed within three days after the commission of the fact." It was not common to execute this sentence with rigour; but the offender in question had been guilty of crimes of so aggravated a nature, that it was not thought proper to remit any thing of the utmost severity of the law.

The prisoner was, therefore, committed to gaol, and chained down to the floor all night; and on the following day the sheriff issued his precept for

the jury to meet: and, in consequence of their verdict, Hunter was brought to his trial, when he pleaded guilty; and added to the offence he had already committed, the horrid crime of declaring, that he lamented only the not having murdered Mr. Gordon's daughter as well as his sons.

The sheriff now passed sentence on the convict, which was to the following purpose: that "on the following day he should be executed on a gibbet erected for that purpose on the spot where he had committed the murders: but that, previous to his execution, his right hand should be cut off with a hatchet, near the wrist; that then he should be drawn up to the gibbet, by a rope, and, when he was dead, hung in chains between Edinburgh and Leith, the knife with which he committed the murders being stuck through his hand, which should be advanced over his head, and fixed therewith to the top of the gibbet."

Mr. Hunter was executed, in strict conformity to the above sentence, on the 22d of August, 1700. But Mr. Gordon soon afterwards petitioned the sheriff, that the body might be removed to a more distant spot, as its hanging on the side of the high way, through which he frequently passed, tended to re-excite his grief for the occasion that had first given rise to it. This requisition was immediately complied with, and in a few days the body was removed to the skirts of a small village near Edinburgh, named Broughton.

It is equally true and horrid to relate, that, at the place of execution. Hunter closed his life with the following shocking declaration: "There is no God—I do not believe there is any—or if there is, I hold him in defiance."

Some



Some serious and important reflections will naturally occur to the mind on perusing the above melancholy narrative. Mr. Hunter was educated in a manner greatly superior to the vulgar; and he was of a profession that ought to have set an example of virtue, instead of a pattern of vice: yet neither his education nor profession could actuate as preventive remedies against a crime the most abhorrent to all the feelings of humanity.

Hunter's first offence, great as it was, could be considered as no other than a prologue to the dismal tragedy that ensued: a tragedy that was attended with almost every possible circumstance of aggravation; for Mr. and Mrs. Gordon had done nothing to him that could tempt him to any thoughts of revenge; and the children were too young to have offended him, even in intention; they simply mentioned to their parents a circumstance, that to them appeared somewhat extraordinary; and which, Mr. Hunter's character and situation considered, was indeed of a very extraordinary nature: yet, in revenge of the supposed affront, did he resolve to embrace his hands in the blood of innocents who never offended.

When we consider the conduct of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, in discharging the young woman who was guilty of a violation of the laws of decency, and retaining in their family the principal offender, we must own that their partiality was ill founded; this, however, must be ascribed to the veneration in which clergymen are universally held, and the particular regard that was shewn towards them in Scotland at the commencement of the present century. Still, however, it is an aggravation of Hunter's crime, who ought to have been grateful in proportion as he was favoured.

It is a shocking part of Hunter's story, that he who was looked upon as a minister, was one of a society of abandoned young fellows, who occasionally assembled to ridicule the scriptures, and make a mockery of the being and attributes of God! Is it then to be wondered that this wretch fell an example of the exemplary justice of Divine Providence? Perhaps a fate no less dreadful attended many of his companions; but as their histories have not reached our hands, we can only judge of the consequences by the enormities of their crimes.

There is something so indescribably shocking in denying the existence of that God "in whom we live, move, and have our being," that it is amazing any man can be an atheist, who feels that he did not create himself.

From this sad tale be mortals taught

The wond'rous pow'r of God,

And, fill'd with deep repentance, bow

Beneath his vengeful rod!

*Narrative of the Life, and Execution of JOHN COWLAND, Gentleman, at Tyburn, for the Murder of Sir ANDREW SLANNING, Baronet.*

**N**OTWITHSTANDING the particulars of this <sup>affair</sup> are short, they are interesting. Sir Andrew Slanning having made a temporary acquaintance with an orange-woman, while in the pit at Drury Lane play-house, retired with her as soon as the play was ended, and was followed by Mr. Cowland and some other gentlemen. They had gone but a few yards before Mr. Cowland put his arm round the woman's neck; on which Sir Andrew desired he would desist, as she was his wife.

wife. Cowland, knowing that Sir Andrew was married to a woman of honour, gave him the lie, and swords were drawn on both sides: but some gentlemen coming up at this juncture, no immediate ill consequence happened.

They all now agreed to adjourn to the Rose tavern; and Captain Wagget having there used his utmost endeavours to reconcile the offended parties, it appeared that his mediation was attended with success; but, as they were going up stairs to drink a glass of wine, Mr. Cowland drew his sword, and stabbed Sir Andrew in the belly, who finding himself wounded, cried out "murder."

One of Lord Warwick's servants now, and two other persons who were in the house, ran up and disarmed Cowland of his sword, which was bloody to the depth of five inches, and took him into custody. Cowland now desired to see Sir Andrew; which being granted, he jumped down the stairs, and endeavoured to make his escape; but being pursued he was easily re-taken.

Cowland was instantly conducted before a justice of the peace, who committed him; and on the 5th of December, 1700, he was tried at the Old Bailey, on three indictments, the first at the common law, the second on the statute of stabbing, and the third on the coroner's inquest for the murder.

Every fact above mentioned was fully proved on the trial; and among other things it was deposed, that the deceased had possessed an estate of 20,000l a year, and his family became extinct by his death, and that he had been a gentleman of great good-nature, and by no means disposed to animosity.

Sentence

Sentence of death was now passed on Mr. Cowland being found guilty on the clearest evidence, and though great interest was made to obtain a pardon for him, he was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of December, 1700.

From the moment of his imprisonment to the day of his death, his behaviour was truly contrite and penitent; he professed the most unfeigned sorrow for all his sins, and gave the following account of himself: That he was the son of reputable parents, who apprenticed him to a goldsmith. That in the early part of his life he was sober and religious, studying the scriptures, giving a regular attendance on divine worship, and devoutly reflecting on his duty towards God; but that abandoning this course of life, he became an easy prey to his own intemperate passions, and proceeded from one degree of vice to another, till at length he committed the horrid crime for which he was justly doomed to fall a sacrifice to the violated laws of God and his country.

On a retrospect of the above-written melancholy narrative, some reflections will occur that, if properly attended to, may be of singular use to the reader. The dispute which cost Sir Andrew Slanning his life, took its rise from his having associated himself with a woman of light character, with whom Cowland thought he had as much right to make free as the baronet; but Sir Andrew was originally to blame; for as he was a married man, there was a greater impropriety in the connection he had formed: this, however, was no kind of justification of the conduct of Cowland, who could have no business to interfere; and his crime is greatly enhanced by his having committed the murder after an apparent reconciliation had taken place. To sum up our obser-

observations in a few words; from this sad tale let married men be taught the danger that may ensue from the highest criminal connection: and let young gentlemen learn to govern and moderate their passions: so may all parties live, an honour to themselves, and a credit to their families and friends.

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*Circumstantial Account of the Life, Trial, Piracies, and Execution of Captain JOHN KIDD, who was banged at Execution Dock.*

THE case of Captain Kidd, while in agitation, engaged the attention of the public in a very eminent degree, though the man himself was one of the most contemptible of the human race. The town of Greenock in Scotland gave birth to Captain Kidd, who was bred to the sea, and having quitted his native country, he resided at New York, where he became owner of a small vessel, with which he traded among the pirates, obtained a thorough knowledge of their haunts, and could give a better account of them than any other person whatever. He was neither remarkable for the excess of his courage, nor for his want of it. In a word, his ruling passion appeared to be avarice, and to this was owing his connection with the pirates.

When Kidd was in company with these abandoned people he used to converse and act as they did; yet at other times he would make singular professions of honesty, and intimate how easy a matter it would be extirpate these people, and prevent their making future depredations.

His

His frequent remarks of this kind engaged the notice of several considerable planters, who forming a more favourable idea of him than his true character would warrant, procured him the patronage with which he was afterwards honoured. Before we enter into farther particulars respecting this man, it will be proper to say something of the situation of public affairs, previous to, and at the time he began to grow conspicuous.

For years past great complaints had been made of the piracies committed in the West-Indies, which had been greatly encouraged by some of the inhabitants of North-America, on account of the advantage that could be made by the purchase of effects thus fraudulently obtained. This coming to the knowledge of King William the Third, he, in the year 1695, bestowed the government of New England and New-York on the earl of Bellamont, an Irish nobleman of distinguished character and abilities.

As soon as his Majesty had conferred this honour on lord Bellamont, his lordship began to consider of the most effectual method to redress the evils complained of, and he represented to colonel Levingston, a gentleman who had great property in New-York, that some proper steps should be taken to obviate the evils so long complained of. Just at this juncture Captain Kidd was arrived from New-York, in a sloop of his own: him, therefore, the colonel mentioned to lord Bellamont, as a bold and daring man, who was very fit to be employed against the pirates, as he was perfectly well acquainted with the places which they resorted at.

This plan met with the fullest approbation of his lordship, who knowing how desirous the king was

was that this nest of pirates should be destroyed, mentioned the affair to his majesty, who greatly applauded the design, and recommended it to the notice of the board of admiralty. The commissioners likewise approved it; but such were then the hurry and confusion of public affairs, that, though the design was approved, no steps were taken towards carrying it into execution.

The transactions on this head being imparted to colonel Levington, he made an application to lord Bellamont, and informed him, that, as the affair would not well admit of delay, it was worthy of being undertaken by some private persons of rank and distinction, and carried into execution at their own expence; notwithstanding public encouragement was denied it.

Lord Bellamont approved of this project; but it was attended with considerable difficulty: at length, however, the lord chancellor Somers, the duke of Shrewsbury, the earl of Romney, the earl of Oxford, and some other persons, with colonel Levington, and captain Kidd, agreed to raise 6000*l.* for the expence of the voyage; and the colonel and captain were to have a fifth of the profits of the whole undertaking.

This plan was so highly approved of by king William, who thought it would produce such great advantages to his subjects, that he promised to contribute to its success; and therefore a reserve was agreed to be made of a tenth part of the effects seized from the pirates, for the use of his majesty: but after the contract was concluded, the king could not spare his share of the money, and therefore the whole was advanced by the above-mentioned persons.

Matters being thus far adjusted, a commission in the usual form was granted to captain Kidd, to take and seize pirates, and bring them to justice; but there was no special clause or proviso to restrain his conduct, or regulate the mode of his proceeding. Kidd was known to lord Bellamont, and another gentleman presented him to lord Romney. With regard to the other parties concerned, he was wholly unacquainted with them; and so ill was this affair conducted, that he had no private instruction how to act, but received his sailing orders from lord Bellamont, the purport of which was, that he should act agreeable to the letter of his commission.

Accordingly a vessel was purchased and manned, and received the name of the Adventure Galley: and in this captain Kidd sailed for New York, towards the close of the year 1695, and in his passage made a prize of a French ship. From New-York he sailed to the Madeira islands, thence to Bonavisto and St. Jago, and from this last place to Madagascar. He now began to cruise at the entrance of the Red Sea, but not being successful in those latitudes, he sailed to Calicut, and there took a ship of one hundred and fifty tons burthen, which he carried to Madagascar, and disposed of there.

Having sold his prize, he again put to sea, and at the expiration of five weeks took the *Quedah Merchant*, a ship of above four hundred tons burthen, the master of which was an Englishman, named Wright, who had two Dutch mates on board, and a French gunner, but the crew consisted of Moors, natives of Africa, and were about ninety in number.

This



He carried this ship to St. Mary's, near Madagascar, where he burnt the Adventure galley, belonging to his owners, and divided the lading of the Quedah Merchant with his crew, taking forty shares to himself. They then went on board the last mentioned ship, and sailed for the West-Indies. It is uncertain whether the inhabitants of the West-India islands knew that Kidd was a pirate; but he was refused refreshments at Anguilla and St. Thomas's, and therefore sailed to Mona, between Porto-Rico and Hispaniola, where, through the management of an Englishman named Bolton, he obtained a supply of provisions from Curacoa. He now bought a sloop of Bolton, in which he stowed great part of his ill-gotten effects, and left the Quedah Merchant with eighteen of the ship's company, in Bolton's care. While at St. Mary's, ninety men of Kidd's crew left him, and went on board the Mocha Merchant, an East-India ship, which had just then commenced pirate.

Kidd now sailed in the sloop, and touched at several places, where he disposed of a great part of his cargo, and then steered for Boston in New England. In the interim, Bolton sold the Quedah Merchant to the Spaniards, and immediately sailed as a passenger in a ship for Boston, where he arrived a considerable time before Kidd, and gave information of what happened to lord Bellamont, then the resident governor.

Kidd, therefore, on his arrival, was seized by order of his lordship; when all he had to urge in his defence was, that he thought the Quedah Merchant was a lawful prize, as she was manned with Moors, though there was no kind of proof that this vessel had committed any act of piracy.

Upon this the earl of Bellamont immediately dispatched an account to England of the circumstances that had arisen, and requested that a ship might be sent for Kidd, who had committed several other notorious acts of piracy. The ship Rochester was accordingly sent to bring him to England; but this vessel happening to be disabled, was obliged to return; a circumstance which greatly increased a public clamour which had for some time subsisted respecting this affair.

It is not to be doubted, but this clamour took its rise from party prejudice; yet it was carried to such a height, that the members of parliament for several places were instructed to move the house for an enquiry into the affair; and accordingly it was moved in the house of commons, that “The letters patent, granted to the earl of Bellamont and others, respecting the goods taken from pirates, were dishonourable to the king, against the law of nations, contrary to the laws and statutes of this realm, an invasion of property, and destructive to commerce.” Though a negative was put on this motion, yet the enemies of lord Somers and the earl of Oxford continued to charge those noblemen with giving countenance to pirates; and it was even insinuated that the earl of Bellamont was not less culpable than the actual offenders.

Another motion was accordingly made in the house of commons, to address his majesty, that Kidd might not be tried till the next session of parliament, and that the earl of Bellamont might be directed to send home all examinations and other papers relative to the affair.” This motion was carried, and the king complied with the request, which was made.

As soon as Kidd arrived in England, he was sent for and examined at the bar of the house of commons, with a view to fix part of his guilt on the parties who had been concerned in sending him on the expedition: but nothing arose to criminate any of those distinguished persons. Kidd, who was in some degree intoxicated, made a very contemptible appearance at the bar of the house; on which a member, who had been one of the most earnest to have him examined, violently exclaimed, “D—n this fellow, I thought he had been only a knave; but unfortunately he happens to be a fool likewise.”

Kidd was at length tried at the Old Bailey, and was convicted on the clearest evidence: but neither at that time nor afterwards, charged any of his employers with being privy to his infamous proceedings.

He was hanged at *Execution-Dock* on the 23d day of May, 1701; but a circumstance happened at his execution that will be worthy of recital. After he had been tied up to the gallows, the rope broke, and he fell to the ground; but being immediately tied up again, the ordinary, who had before exhorted him, desired to speak with him once more; and on this second application, entreated him to make the most careful use of the few farther moments thus providentially allotted him for the final preparation of his soul to meet its important change. These exhortations appeared to have the wished for effect; and he was left, professing his charity to all the world; and his hopes of salvation through the merits of his Redeemer.

In this manner ended the life of captain Kidd, a man who, if he had entertained a proper regard to the welfare of the public, or even to his own advantage,

vantage, might have become an useful member of society, instead of a disgrace to it. The opportunities he had obtained of acquiring a complete knowledge of the haunts of the pirates, rendered him one of the most proper men in the world to have extirpated this nest of villains; but his own avarice defeated the generous views of some of the greatest and most distinguished men of the age in which he lived. Hence we may learn the destructive nature of avarice, which generally counteracts all its own purposes. Captain Kidd might have acquired a fortune, and rendered material service to his country, in a point the most essential to its interests; but he appeared to be dead to all those generous sensations which do honour to humanity; and materially injured his country, while he was bringing final disgrace on himself.

The history of this wretched malefactor will effectually impress on the mind of the reader the truth of the old observation, that "Honesty is the best policy."

Henceforth let honour's path be trod,  
Nor villains seek in vain  
To mock the sacred laws of God,  
And give their neighbours pain.

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*Account of the Life, Execution, &c. of DARBY MULLINS who suffered death at Execution-Dock with Captain Kidd for Piracy.*

**D**ARBY MULLINS, the unfortunate subject of this short narrative, was born in a village in the north of Ireland, about sixteen miles from Londonderry.

He resided with his father, and followed the business of husbandry, till he was about eighteen years

years of age, when the old man died, and the young one went to Dublin; but he had not been long there before he was enticed to go to the West-Indies, where he was sold to a planter, with whom he resided four years.

The above-mentioned term being expired, he became his own master, and thereupon followed the business of a waterman; by this he saved money enough to purchase a small vessel, in which he traded from one island to another, till the time of the dreadful earthquake at Jamaica, in the year 1691, from the effects whereof he was preserved in a most miraculous manner.

Some short time after this he built himself a house at Kingston, and, having now a wife and family, he opened his new habitation as a punch-house, which, in general, is a very profitable business in that island; but it did not prove so to Mullins, who thereupon took his passage to New-York, where he resided two years, and then sailed to the Madeiras, where he remained only three weeks. On his return to New-York he buried his wife, and finding himself not in circumstances to keep house any longer, he purchased a boat of twenty tons burthen, in which he carried from one part of the country to another wood for firing.

He laboured for a while in this way with some success; but unhappily falling into company with Kidd, and some of his companions, they persuaded him to engage in their piratical practices: urging that their intention being to rob only the enemies of christianity, the act would be not only lawful but laudable.

In consequence of his fatal compliance, he was tried at the same sessions as Kidd, and being legally convicted, on the 23d of May 1701, suffered death with him at Execution-Dock.

We may learn from the fate of this offender, the sin and danger of quitting an honest employment to engage in a business of a contrary nature. We likewise see the fallacy of those specious pretences by which Mullins was prevailed to embark in one of the vilest species of robbery. He was told that it was no crime to plunder an infidel. If he had reflected but a moment, he must have been convinced that it was equally contrary to the laws of his country, and the spirit of christianity : but, in fact, he did not give himself time to reflect ; being seduced by the bad example of others : so true is the apostolical observation, “ Evil communications corrupt good manners.”

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*Account of the Parentage, Life, Execution, &c. of*  
**HERMAN STRODTMAN**, *who suffered at*  
*Tyburn for the Murder of PETER WOLTER.*

**H**ENRY STRODTMAN, who came of a good family, was born at Revel, in Lissland, about the year 1683. His parents, who were of a religious disposition, gave him a liberal and pious education.

He was sent by his father to school at Lubeck in the year 1694, where he remained till Michaelmas 1698. At this period he went to Hamburg, where he continued some months, and then in company with a young countryman of his, named Peter Wolter, embarked for England: and on their arrival in London, they were both bound apprentices to Messieurs Stein and Lorient, merchants and partners.

Both these young gentlemen lived together in great harmony for a considerable time; but in the month of August preceding the fatal tragedy of which

which we are about to recite the particulars, Mr. Dorien was married to the sister of Peter Wolter.

Hereupon the latter began to assume airs of consequence, and behaved with so much insolence to Strodtman, that his pride took the alarm. They had several quarrels, and Wolter beat Strodtman twice; at one time in the counting-house, and at another before the servant-girls in the kitchen. Wolter likewise traduced Strodtman to his masters, who thereupon denied him the liberty and other gratifications that were allowed to his fellow-prentice. Hereupon Strodtman conceived an implacable hatred against him, and resolved to murder him in some way or other. His first intention was to have poisoned him; and with this view he mixed some white mercury with a white powder which Wolter used to keep in a glass in his bed-room, as a remedy for the scurvy: but this happening to be done in the midst of winter, Wolter had declined taking the powder; so that the other thought of destroying him by the more expeditious method of stabbing.

This scheme, however, he delayed from time to time, while Wolter's pride and arrogance increased to such a degree, that the other thought he should at length be tempted to murder him in sight of the family. Hereupon Strodtman desired one of the maids to intimate to his masters his inclinations to be sent to the West-Indies; but no answer being given to this request, Strodtman grew so uneasy, and his enmity against his fellow-prentice increased to such a degree, that the Dutch maid, observing the agitation of his mind, advised him to a patient submission to his situation, as the most probable method of securing his future peace. Unfortunately he paid no regard to this good advice; but determined on the

execution of the fatal plan which afterwards led to his destruction.

On the morning of Good-Friday Strodtman was sent out on business; but instead of transacting it, he went to Greenwich, with an intention of returning on Saturday, to perpetrate the murder; but reflecting that his fellow-prentice was to receive the sacrament on Easter-Sunday, he abhorred the thought of taking away his life before he had partaken of the Lord's supper; wherefore he sent a letter to his masters on the Saturday, in which he asserted that he had been impressed, and was to be sent to Chatham on Easter-Monday, and put on board a ship in the royal navy; but while he was at Greenwich he was met by a young-gentleman who knew him, and who, returning to London, told Messieurs Stein and Dorien, he believed that the story of his being impressed was all invention. Hereupon Mr. Stein went to Chatham, to enquire into the real state of the case; when he discovered that the young gentleman's suspicions were but too well founded.

Strodtman went to the church at Greenwich twice on Easter-Sunday, and on the approach of evening came to London, and slept at the Dolphin-inn, in Bishopsgate-street. On the following day he returned to Greenwich, and continued either at that place or at Woolwich and the neighbourhood till Tuesday, when he went to London, lodged in Lombard-street, and returned to Greenwich on the Wednesday.

Coming again to London on the evening of the succeeding day, he did not return any more to Greenwich, but going to the house of his masters, he told them that what he had written was true, for that he had been pressed. They gave



no credit to this tale, but told him they had enquired into the affair, and bid him quit their house. This he did, and took lodgings in Moorfields, where he lay on that and the following night, and on the Saturday he took other lodgings at the Sun in Queen-street, London.

Before the preceding Christmas he had procured a key on the model of that belonging to his master's house, that he might go in and out at his pleasure. Originally he intended to have made no worse use of this key; but it being still in his possession, he let himself into the house between eight and nine o'clock in the evening of the Saturday last mentioned; but hearing the footsteps of some person going up stairs, he concealed himself behind the door in the passage. As soon as the noise arising from this circumstance was over, he went up one pair of stairs to a room adjoining the compting-house, where he used to sleep, and having found a tinder-box, he lighted a candle, and put it into his master's dark lanthorn, which he carried up stairs, to an empty room next to that in which Peter Wolter used to lay. Here he continued a short time, when hearing somebody coming up stairs, he put out his candle, and fell asleep soon afterwards.

Awaking about twelve o'clock he listened for awhile, and hearing no noise, he imagined that the whole family were fast asleep. Hereupon he descended to the room on the first floor, where the tinder-box lay; and having lighted his candle, he went to the 'compting-house, and took a sum of money, and several notes and bills.

This being done, he took a piece of wood with which they used to beat tobacco, and going up stairs again, he hastily entered the room where Peter Wolter was asleep, and advancing to his

bed-side, struck him violently on the head; and though his heart in some degree failed him, yet he continued his strokes. As the wounded youth groaned much, he took the pillow, and laying it on his mouth, sat down on the side of the bed, and pressed it hard with his elbow, till no appearance of life remained.

Perceiving Wolter to be quite dead, he searched his chest of drawers and pockets, and took as much money as, with what he had taken from his masters, amounted to above eight pounds. He then packed up some linen and woollen cloaths, and going down one pair of stairs, he threw his bundle into a house that was uninhabited.

He then went up stairs again, and having cut his candle, lighted both pieces, one of which he placed in a chair close to the bed curtains, and the other on a chest of drawers, with a view to have set the house on fire, to conceal the robbery and murder of which he had been guilty. This being done, he went through a window into the house where he had thrown his bundle; and in this place he staid till five in the morning, when he took the bundle with him to his lodgings in Queen-street, where he shifted his apparel, and went to the Sweedish church in Trinity-Lane. After the worship of the congregation was ended, he heard a bill of thanks read, which his masters had sent, in devout acknowledgement of the narrow escape that themselves and their neighbours had experienced from the fire. Struck by this circumstance, Strodman burst in tears, but he endeavoured as much as possible to conceal his emotion from a gentleman who sat in the same pew with him, and who, on their coming out of the church, informed him that the house of  
Messieurs

Messieurs Stein and Dorien narrowly escaped being burnt the preceding night, by an accident then unknown; but that the destruction was providentially prevented by a Dutch maid smelling the fire and seeing the smoke, so that on her alarming her master, the flames were extinguished by a pail of water.

Strodtman made an appointment to meet the gentleman who gave him this information, on the outer walks of the Royal-Exchange, in the afternoon, to go to the Dutch church in the Savoy: but the gentleman not coming to his time, he went alone to Stepney church; and after service was ended, he walked towards Mile-End, where he saw the two Dutchmen\* who had been hung in chains. The sight gave him a shocking idea of the crime of which he had been guilty, and he reflected that he might soon become a like horrid spectacle to mankind. Hence he proceeded to Blackwall, where he saw the captain of a French pirate hanging in chains, which gave fresh force to the gloomy feelings of his mind, and again taught him to dread a similar fate. After having been thus providentially led to the sight of objects which he would otherwise rather have avoided, he returned to his lodgings in great dejection of mind, but far from repenting or even being properly sensible of the crime he had committed; for, as he himself said, “his heart did not yet relent for what he had done, and if he had failed of murdering his fellow-prentice in his bed, he should have destroyed him some other way.”

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\* These must have been Michael Van-Berghen, and his servant Dromelius.

On his return to his lodgings he ate his supper, said his prayers, and went to bed. On the following morning he went to the White Horse Inn without Cripplegate, to receive cash for a bill of twenty pounds which he had stolen from his masters' house; but the person who was to have paid it being gone out, he was desired to call again about twelve o'clock. In the interim he went to the house of a banker in Lombard-street, who requested him to carry some money to his (the banker's) sister, who was at a boarding-school at Greenwich. Strodtman said he could not go till the following day, when he would execute the commission: but before he left the house the banker told him that a young man, named Green, had been to enquire for him; on which Strodtman said that if Mr. Green returned, he should be informed that he would come back at one o'clock. Hence he went again to the White Horse Inn, where he found the party, who told him that he had no orders to pay the money for the bill.

Having received this answer, he went to his lodgings, where he dined, and then went to the banker's in Lombard-street, where his master Stein, with Mr. Green and another gentleman, were waiting for him. Mr. Stein asked him if he would go willingly to his house, or be carried thither by porters: and he, replied that he would go of his own accord. When he came there he was asked some questions respecting the atrocious crimes of which he had been guilty; but persisting that he was innocent, he was searched, and the 20l. bill found in his possession. They then enquired where he lodged; to which he answered in Moorfields; whereupon they all went

went thither together; but the people denied his lodging there at that time.

Mr. Stein, finding him unwilling to speak the truth, told him that if he would make a full discovery, he should be sent abroad, out of the reach of justice. Hereupon he mentioned his real lodgings; on which they went thither in a coach, and finding the bills and other stolen effects Strodtman was carried before Sir Humphry Edwin, who committed him to Newgate, on his own confession.

He was not tried at the first sessions after his commitment, and in the interval that he lay in prison some bad people who were confined there trumpeted up an idle tale for him to tell when he came to trial, and prevailed on him to plead not guilty; a circumstance which he afterwards sincerely repented of. On his trial, however, there were too many corroborative proofs of his guilt, that the jury could not hesitate to convict him, and he received the sentence awarded by law.

While he was under sentence of death, his behaviour was remarkably contrite and penitent; and when the Ordinary of Newgate told him that the warrant for his execution was come down, and that he would tatter in a few days, he said, "The Lord's will be done! I am willing to die, only I beg of God that I may not, (as I deserve) die an eternal death; and that though I die here, for my most heinous and enormous crimes, yet I may, for the love of Christ, live eternally with him in heaven:" to which he added, "God bless the king, and all my honourable judges: they have done me no wrong; but 'tis I have done great wrong. The Lord be merciful to me a great sinner, else I perish.

At

At times he seemed to despair, because he feared that his repentance was not equal to his guilt; but then again his mind was occasionally warmed with the hope that his penitance was such as would lead to salvation.

When at the place of execution he acknowledged his crime, for which he professed the sincerest sorrow and repentance: he begged pardon of God for having endeavoured, with presumptuous lies to conceal those crimes, which being punished in this world, his eternal punishment in the next might be avoided. He died full of contrition, penitence, and hope; and suffered at *Tyburn*, on the 18th of June, 1701; and it was remarked that he kept his hands lifted up for a considerable time after the cart was drawn away.

There are some very remarkable circumstances in the case of Herman Strodtman, which are well worthy of observation: The prudence of the Dutch maid, who, when she observed the agitation of his mind, advised him to bear present evils with resolution, in the hope of future peace. The doctrine inculcated by this honest girl ought not to be despised even by the wisest of men.

Strodtman's resolution not to murder Wolter till he had received the sacrament has something shockingly striking in it. We are at once charmed and amazed at the influence religion has on the mind. A man is determined to commit murder, but will defer the fatal stroke till he thinks the soul of his adversary is properly prepared for eternity! Hence let parents be taught the necessity of impressing the precepts of religion on the minds of their children. Even a man while he retained the resolution of committing deliberate murder could not forget that there

there is a God to reward the pious, as well as punish the wicked.

Strodtman's master, Stein, going to Chatham, to enquire if he had been really impressed, and finding that he had not, is a good lesson against the sin of lying. Nothing is so easy as the detection of a liar; nothing more scandalous than the being liable to such detection.

Strodtman's going to church repeatedly, before and after the commission of the murder, are very striking circumstances; and combine with those above-mentioned to prove that it is impossible to root from the mind that regard for religion which should be planted in the years of infancy.

His intention to set the house on fire, in order to conceal the robbery and murder, paints his character in the worst light. The incendiary is one of the most culpable of all offenders. It is a great misfortune that persons who are guilty of writing incendiary letters are seldom detected; but it would still be a greater misfortune to this country, if persons of property were to be terrified to a compliance by the threats usually denounced in such letters. Guilt is always cowardly, and seldom carries its own threats into execution. It is, however, to be hoped that the legislature of this country will ordain a law, that incendiaries shall be punished agreeable to the *lex talionis* of the Romans, or the scripture rule, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

By Strodtman's going to receive the money for the bill of twenty pounds, he took the readiest method to convict himself; for he might have been certain that when the bill was missed, payment would be stopped: but thus it happens, in

almost every instance, that villainy defeats its own ends, and proves the possessor to be a fool.

From the whole of this malefactor's case, we may learn, that the direct road to happiness is through the path of integrity; and that the indulgence of violent passions, whatever the provocation may be, is equally inconsistent with the laws of reason, and the doctrines of christianity.

*Particular Account of the Life and Amours of*  
**MARY ADAMS**, *who was executed at Tyburn,*  
*for privately stealing.*

**T**HIS young woman, who was the daughter of a journeyman shoemaker, was born at Reading, in Berkshire, and, when she was old enough to go to service, went to live with a grocer in that town. As Mary was a girl of vivacity and genteel figure, she soon attracted the regard of the grocer's son, and the consequence of their connection became very conspicuous in a short time.

As soon as it was evident that she was pregnant, she was dismissed from her master's service, on which she immediately made oath that his son was the father of the child thereafter to be born; a circumstance that compelled the old gentleman to support her till after she was brought to bed.

She had not been delivered long, before she went to London, and entered into the service of a mercer in Cheapside, where, by prudent conduct, she might have retrieved the character she had forfeited in the country; but prudence was not among the number of her virtues: for though she had already suffered for her indiscretion, an intimacy soon subsisted between her master and herself; but as their associations could not conveniently



veniently be held at home, they contrived to meet on evenings at other places, when the mistress of the house was gone to the theatre, or out on a visit.

This connection continued till the girl was far advanced in her pregnancy; when the master, apprehensive of disagreeable consequences at home, advised the girl to quarrel with her mistress, in order that she might be dismissed, and then took a lodging for her at Hackney, where she remained till she was delivered; and in the mean time the connection between her and her master continued as before. Being brought to bed of a child that died in a few hours after its birth, the master thought himself happy, supposing he could easily free himself from the incumbrance of the mother, of whom he now began to be heartily tired.

When the girl recovered from her lying-in, he told her that she must go to service, as it did not suit him to maintain her any longer; but this enraged her to the highest degree, and she threatened to discover the nature of their connection to his wife, unless he would make her a present of twenty guineas; and with this demand he thought it prudent to comply, happy to get rid of her even on such terms.

Being now in possession of money, and in no want of cloaths in which to make a genteel appearance, she removed from Hackney to Wych-street, without Temple-bar; but was scarcely settled in her new lodgings before she sent a letter to the mercer's wife, whom she acquainted with the nature of the connection that had subsisted between her late master and herself, but she did not mention her place of abode in this letter.

The consequence was, that the mercer was ob-

liged to acknowledge the crime of which he had been guilty, and solicit his wife's pardon, in terms of the utmost humiliation. This pardon was promised, but whether it was ever ratified remains a doubt.

Mrs. Adams had the advantage of an engaging figure, and passing as a young widow in her new lodgings, she was soon married to a young fellow in the neighbourhood; but it was not long before he discovered the imposition that had been put on him, on which he embarked on board a ship in the royal navy.

By this time Mrs. Adams's money was almost expended; but as her cloaths were yet good, an attorney of Clement's-Inn took her into keeping; and after she had lived a short time with him, she went to another of the same profession, with whom she cohabited above two years; but on his marriage she was once more abandoned to seek her fortune.

Fertile of invention, and too proud to condescend to accept of a common service, she became connected with a notorious bawd of Drury lane, who was very glad of her assistance, and promised herself considerable advantage, from the association. In this situation Mrs. Adams displayed her charms to considerable advantage, and was as happy as any common prostitute can expect to be: but alas! what is this happiness but a prelude to the extremity of misery and distress? Such indeed it was found by Mrs. Adams, who having been gratified by a gentleman with a considerable sum of money, the bawd quarrelled with her respecting the dividing of it, and a battle ensuing, our heroine was turned out of the house, after she had got a black eye in the contest.

After this she used to parade the Park in the day-

day-time, and walk the streets in the evening, in search of casual lovers; but as she joined the practice of theft to that of incontinence, few of her chance acquaintance escaped being robbed. She was often taken into custody for these practices, but continually escaped through defect of evidence.

At length an end was put to her depredations; for having enticed a gentleman to a bagnio near Covent-garden, she picked his pockets of all his money and a bank note to a large amount, and left him while he was asleep. When the gentleman awaked, he sent immediate notice to the bank to stop payment; and as Mrs. Adams came soon afterwards to receive the money for the note, she was taken into custody, and lodged in prison; and being in a short time tried at the Old Bailey, she was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at *Tyburn*, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, 1702.

After her conviction she lived in the same gay and dissipated manner that she had done before, and was visited by many of her former acquaintance, who supplied her with money to support her extravagance. Agreeable to her own request too, their mistaken bounty contributed to purchase her a suit of mourning, in which she was executed; and they buried her in as handsome a manner as if her life had been conducted by the rules of virtue, and she had likewise been a woman of fortune:

The reflections naturally arising from this case, are such as we hope may prove serviceable to our readers of both sexes.—This young woman submitting to be debauched by her master's son, at Reading; laid the foundation of her ruin. Hence girls of her rank of life should be taught never to yield to unlawful solicitations: for when men  
above

above their own sphere pay addresses to them, it may reasonably be supposed that honourable marriage is not intended; and girls should always despise addresses of every other kind, and shun the deluder as they would a pestilence.

When Mary Adams got a reputable service in London, she had a fair opportunity of recovering her character; and the moment her master attempted to have seduced her, she ought to have quitted her place. Her meanness afterwards, in threatening to discover to her mistress the nature of the connexion between her master and herself, in order to extort twenty guineas from him; and her actually doing this after she had received the money, sufficiently marks the profligacy of her mind!

The figure the mercer made in begging pardon of his wife, for his connection with the girl, paints, in a striking light, the meanness to which a man is liable to stoop who violates the sacred laws of marriage.

The rest of Mrs. Adams's life carries its own lesson with it. The kept mistress, on the slightest change in the inclination of her keeper, is liable to descend to the rank of a common woman of the town; the common women are almost all of them thieves: and theft naturally leads to the gallows.

The young fellow who first debauched this girl, at Reading, must have felt great uneasiness at hearing that she brought herself to an ignominious end, in a great measure through his originally seducing her. But for that first misfortune, she might have lived an honest wife to a countryman of her own rank, and avoided the disgrace of a shameful exit at *Tyburn*.

The

The man who thinks of seducing a poor girl, should reflect that, besides the ruin of her, he involves her unhappy parents and friends in all the bitterness of woe! From this melancholy tale then, let our men and maids be taught that stolen pleasures, though tempting to their irregular passions, are followed by a series of bad consequences, and end in fruitless repentance, and aggravated despair! Let them also learn to honour the married state; for “Marriage is honourable, and the bed undefiled.”

Hail wedded Love!

Mysterious Law! True source of human Offspring!

By thee adulterous lust was driven from Men,  
Among the bestial Herds to range: by thee,  
Founded in Reason, loyal, just, and pure,  
Relations dear, and all the Charities  
Of Father, Son, and Brother, first were known.

MILTON.

*Account of THOMAS ESTRICK, who was Executed at Tyburn for House-breaking.*

THOMAS ESTRICK was born in the Borough of Southwark, in the year 1676. His father was a currier, and instructed him in his own business; but the boy shewed a very early attachment to pleasures and gratifications above his age, and incompatible with his situation.

When the time of his apprenticeship was expired, he was of too unfettled a disposition to follow his business, and therefore engaged in the service

service of a gentleman of fortune at Hackney : but he had not been long in this new place, before his master was robbed of plate, and other valuable effects, to the amount of above eighty pounds.

The fact was, that Estrick had stolen these effects ; but such was the ascendancy that he had obtained over his master, and such the baseness of his own disposition, that he had art enough to impute the crime to one of the servant maids, who was turned out of the house, with every circumstance of unmerited disgrace.

Estrick having quitted this service, took a shop in Cock-Alley, near Cripplegate-church, where he carried on the business to which he was bred ; and while in this station he courted a girl of reputation, to whom he was soon afterwards married. It should be remarked, that he had been instigated to rob his master, at Hackney, by some young fellows of a profligate disposition : and he had not been married more than half a year, when these dissolute companions threatened to give him up to justice if he refused to bribe them to keep the secret.

Estrick, terrified at the thoughts of a prosecution, gave them his note of hand for the sum they demanded ; but when the note became due, he was unable to pay it ; on which he was arrested, and lay some time in prison ; but at length obtained his liberty in defect of the prosecution of the suit.

As soon as he was at large, he went to lodge with a person who kept his former house in Cock-Alley ; but on taking possession of his lodgings, he found that a woman who lodged and died in the room during his absence, had left a box containing cash to the amount of about ninety pounds.

Having

Having possessed himself of this sum, he opened a shop in Long-Alley, Moorfields; but his old associates having propagated a report to the prejudice of his character, he thought he should not be safe in that situation; and therefore took shipping for Holland, having previously disposed of his effects. On his arrival in Holland he found no opportunity of employing his little money to any advantage; and therefore he spent the greater part of it, and then returned to his native country.

It was not long after his return before he found himself reduced to great distress; on which he had recourse to a variety of illegal methods to supply his necessities. He was guilty of privately stealing, was a house-breaker, a street-robber, and a highwayman. In a short time, however, the career of his wickedness was at an end. He was apprehended, tried, and convicted; and in consequence thereof was executed at Tyburn, on the 10th of March, 1703, before he had attained the age of twenty-seven years.

From the particular circumstances which contributed to bring this offender to justice; the effects of keeping bad company may be learnt. If he had not associated with young fellows of bad character, he would not have been reduced to the necessity of giving his note of hand, which carried him to a prison, and consequently threw him out of business when he seemed disposed to get an honest living. The same unhappy connection likewise obliged him to depart for Holland, after he was a second time settled; and these circumstances, in fact, contributed to his final disgrace and destruction. Hence let youth in general be taught to “avoid every appearance

“of evil,” and to remember that text of scripture, “If finners intice thee, consent thou not.”

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Interesting Particulars respecting JOHN PETER DRAMATTI, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for the Murder of his Wife.

THE unhappy subject of this narrative was the son of Protestant parents, and born at Saverdun, in the county of Foix, and province of Languedoc, in France: He received a religious education; and when he arrived at years of maturity, he left his own country on account of the persecution then prevailing there, and went to Geneva.

From thence he travelled into Germany, and served as a horse-grenadier under the elector of Brandenburg, who was afterwards king of Prussia. When he had been in this sphere of life about a year, he came over to England, and entered into the service of lord Haversham, with whom he remained about twelve months, and then enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of Colonel De la Meloniere; and having made two campaigns in Flanders, the regiment was ordered into Ireland, where it was broke, in consequence of which Dramatti obtained his liberty. He now became acquainted with a widow, between fifty and sixty years of age, who pretending she had a great fortune, and allied to the royal family of France, he soon married her, on account of her supposed wealth and rank, and her understanding English and Irish, thinking it prudent to have a wife who could speak the language of the country.



try in which he proposed to spend the remainder of his life.

He had not been long married before he found he had been imposed upon, for his wife had no fortune at all; on which he took a small house and a piece of ground, about ten miles from Cork, intending to turn farmer: but being altogether ignorant of husbandry, he found it impossible to subsist by that profession, on which he went to Cork, and worked as a skinner, being the trade to which he was brought up. At the expiration of a twelvemonth from his coming to that city, he went to London, and offering his service again to lord Havertham, he was accepted, and in this service he remained till the perpetration of the crime which brought him to a shameful end.

The substance of the narrative that Dramatti gave of the cause and consequence of the murder was as follows: His wife, unhappy on account of their separate residence, wished to live with him at lord Havertham's, which he refused to consent to, saying that his lordship did not know he was married. Hereupon she entreated him to quit his service, which he likewise refused; saying that he could not provide for himself so well in any other situation, and that it would be ungenerous to leave so indulgent a master.

The wife now began to evince the jealousy of her disposition; and intimated that Dramatti had fixed his affections on some other woman: and the following circumstance aggravated the malignant disorder that wrangled in her mind.

Dramatti being attacked by a violent fever about the Christmas preceding the time that the murder was committed, his noble master gave orders that all possible care should be taken of

him at his lordship's expence. At this period Mrs. Dramatti paid a visit to her husband, and again urged him to quit his service, which he positively refused. A servant girl now came into the room, bringing him some water-gruel; and the wife suspecting that this was her rival in her husband's affections, once more entreated him to leave his place; in answer to which he said he must be out of his senses to abandon a situation in which he was so well provided for, and treated with such humanity.

Dramatti having recovered of his illness, visited his wife at her lodgings as often as was consistent with the duties of his station; but this not being so often as she wished him to come, she grew more uneasy than before. At length lord Haverham took lodgings at Kensington, and Dramatti was so busy in packing up some articles on the occasion, that he had no opportunity of acquainting his wife with their removal. At length she learnt this circumstance from another quarter; on which, enflamed to the highest degree of rage, she went to Kensington, to reproach her husband with his unkindness to her, though he declared he always maintained her as well as he was able, and as a proof of it had given her three guineas but a little time before the murder was committed.

Frequent were the disputes between this unhappy man and his wife, till, on the 9th of June, Dramatti being sent to London, and his business lying near Soho, he called on his wife, who lodged in that neighbourhood, and having been with her some time, he was about to take his leave, but she laid hold of him and wanted to detain him: but he got from her, and went towards Charing-Cross, to which place she followed him; but

but at length she seemed to yield to his persuasions that she would go home, as he told her he was going to his lord in Spring-Gardens; but instead of going home, she went and waited for him at, or near, Hyde-Park-Gate, and in the evening he found her there as he was going to Kensington. At the Park gate, she stopped him, and insisted that he should go no farther unless he took her with him; and after many words had passed between them, she said she would go in spite of his teeth, or else she would have his life, or he should have her's. He now left her, and went towards Chelsea: but she followed him till they came near Bloody-Bridge, where the quarrel being vehemently renewed, she seized his neckcloth, and would have strangled him; whereupon he beat her most unmercifully both with his cane and sword, which latter he imagined she broke with her hands, as she was remarkable for her strength, and, if he had been unarmed, could have easily overpowered him.

Having wounded her in so many places as to conclude that he had killed her, his passion immediately began to subside, and falling on his knees, he devoutly implored the pardon of God for the horrid sin of which he had been guilty, and then went to Kensington, where his fellow-servants observing that his cloaths were bloody, he said that he had been attacked by two men in Hyde-Park, who would have robbed him of his cloaths; but that he defended himself, and broke the head of one of them.

This story was credited for the present, and on the following day Dramatti went to London, where he heard a paper cried in the streets respecting the murder that had been committed; and though he dreaded being taken into custody every moment,

moment, yet he did not seek to make his escape; but dispatched his business in London, and returned to Kenfington.

On the following day the servants heard a paper cried, respecting a barbarous murder that had been committed near Bloody-bridge; on which they told their lord of it, hinting that they suspected Dramatti to have murdered his wife, as they had been known to quarrel before, and he came home the preceding evening with his sword broke, the hilt of it bruised, his cane shattered, and some blood on his cloaths.

Upon this lord Haversham, with a view to employ him, that he might not think he was suspected, bid him get the coach ready, and in the interim sent for a constable, who, on searching him, found a woman's cap in his pocket, which afterwards proved to have belonged to his wife.

When he was examined before a justice of peace, he confessed that he had committed the crime; but, in extenuation of it, said that his wife was a worthless woman, who had entrapped him into marriage, by pretending to be of the blood-royal of France, and a woman of fortune.

On his trial it appeared that he went into lord Haversham's chamber late on the night on which the murder was committed, after that nobleman was in bed; and it was supposed that he had an intention of robbing his lordship, who called out to know what he wanted. But in a solemn declaration Dramatti made after his conviction, he stedfastly denied all intention of robbing his master, but only went into the room to fetch a silver tumbler, which he had forgot, that he might have it in readiness to take in some asses milk in the morning, for his lordship.

The

The body of Mrs. Dramatti was found in a ditch between Hyde-Park and Chelsea, and a track of blood was seen to the distance of twenty yards, at the end of which a piece of a sword was found sticking in a bank, which fitted the other part of the sword in the prisoner's possession.

The circumstances attending the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, the culprit was found guilty, condemned, and on the 21st of July, 1703, was executed at *Tyburn*, and yielded up his life a sincere penitent, not only with respect to the crime for which he suffered, but for all others of which he had been guilty.

From the above melancholy narrative the reader is taught to shun the vice of lying, and to dread jealousy as the most baneful of all the disorders of the mind. The two causes that contributed to the untimely death of this unhappy couple were those above mentioned: by a lie the woman seduced Dramatti to marry, and by her ill-founded jealousy, and ungovernable passion consequent thereon, provoked him to murder.

Though nothing can be urged in extenuation of a crime of so black a dye as murder, yet one can hardly help pitying a man who has been instigated to the commission of it, by a vile deception in the first instance, and ungovernable passions in the second. Our young readers will do well to recollect the following lines of the pious Dr. Watts:

O 'tis a lovely thing for youth  
To walk betimes in wisdom's way;  
To fear a lie, to speak the truth,  
That we may truit to all they say.

Those

Those in the married state who peruse this story will be particularly struck with the following words of the immortal Shakespear,

*The Jealous are the Damn'd :*

for surely nothing can approach so nearly to the torments we suppose unhappy spirits to endure in a future state, as the pangs of jealousy, perpetually corroding the mind, and rendering the unhappy subjects of it constantly uneasy with themselves, and objects at once of the pity and derision of others.

*Account of the Life, Conviction and Execution of  
THOMAS COOK, who suffered at Tyburn, for  
the Murder of, JOHN COOPER, a Constable,  
in May-fair.*

**T**HOMAS COOK was the son of a butcher, a man of reputation, at Gloucester: when he was about fifteen years of age his father put him apprentice to a barber-surgeon, in London, with whom he lived two years, and then running away, engaging in the service of — Needham, esquire, who was page of honor to king William the third: but his mother writing to him, and intimating, in the vulgar phrase, that “a gentle-  
“ man’s service was no inheritance,” he quitted his place, and going to Gloucester, engaged in the business of a butcher, being the profession of several of his ancestors. He followed this trade for some time, and served master of the company of butchers in his native city; after which he abandoned that business, and took an inn; but it  
does

does not appear that he was successful in it, since he soon afterwards turned grazier.

Restless, however, in every station of life, he repaired to London, where he commenced prize-fighter, at May-fair, a circumstance which led to the unhappy catastrophe, the particulars of which we are about to relate.

At the period of which we are writing, May-Fair was a place greatly frequented by prize-fighters, thieves, and women of bad character. Here puppet-shows were exhibited, and hither resorted all those vagabonds of every kind that are a disgrace to any neighbourhood. At length the nuisance increased to such a degree, that queen Anne issued her proclamation for the suppression of vice and immorality, with a particular view to this fair; in consequence of which, the justices of the peace issued their warrant to the high constable, who summoned all the inferior constables to his assistance.

The constables going to suppress the fair, Cook, with a mob of about thirty soldiers and other persons, stood in defiance of the peace-officers, at whom they threw brickbats, by which some of the latter were wounded.

Cooper, the constable, being active to suppress the rioters, Cook drew his sword and stabbed him in the belly, and he died of the wound at the expiration of four days. Hereupon Cook fled to Ireland, and (as it was deposed upon his trial) while he was in a public-house there, he swore in a profane manner, for which the landlord censured him, and told him there were persons in the house who would take him into custody for it; to which he answered, "Are there

" any of the informing dogs in Ireland? We in

“ London drive them ; for at a fair called May-  
 “ Fair, there was a noise which I went out to  
 “ see:—there were six soldiers and myself—the  
 “ constables played their parts with their staves,  
 “ and I played mine ; and when the man drop-  
 “ ped, I wiped my sword, put it up, and  
 “ went away.”

Cook having repeatedly talked in this boasting and insolent manner, he was at length taken into custody, and sent to Chester, whence he was removed by a writ of habeas corpus to London ; and being tried at the Old Bailey, was convicted, received sentence of death, and was ordered for execution on the 21st of July, 1703.

After conviction he solemnly denied the crime for which he had been condemned ; declaring that he had no sword in his hand on the day the constable was killed, and was not in the company of those who killed him. How far he was to be credited in this assertion, or what could induce him to make it, if it was not true, it is impossible to say ; but this declaration is the more extraordinary, as he acknowledged all his other crimes without hesitation.

Having received the sacrament on the 21st of July abovementioned, he was taken from Newgate to be carried to Tyburn ; but when he was got to High-Holborn, opposite Bloomsbury, a reprieve arrived for him till the following Friday. When he came back to Newgate he was visited by numbers of his acquaintance, who would have rejoiced with him on his narrow escape ; but he declined all company, except that of those who would assist him in his devotions.

On the Friday that he was to have been executed he received another respite till the



11th of August, when he underwent the severest rigour of the law with the greatest penitence and resignation.

Such is the history of the fate of this man, who seems to have fallen a victim to the low passion he had imbibed for the life of a prize-fighter; for he used to make it his boast, that there was not a more courageous man than himself in the world. To the credit of the present age, the practice of prize-fighting is abolished:—the bear-gardens are no more:—the justices of the peace have done much towards suppressing the fairs in the villages in the neighbourhood of London:—the duration of Bartholomew-fair is abridged from near three weeks to three days. These are great and important regulations; and it is to be hoped that the work of reformation will go forward till it is absolutely complete, that the rising generation may be protected from those evils to which they are liable at all these places of irregular meeting.

May the fate of this malefactor have its proper effect, in teaching youth to refrain from evil company, and to associate only with those by whose instructions they may grow wiser and better!

The following is a copy of verses written by Cook, and sung by him at the place of execution; which we insert, not for the sake of the poetry, but as a specimen of the devotion of his mind.

**I** HOPE my death will warning give,  
 To all that here attend,  
 And by my sad example may  
 Your lives learn to amend.  
 Amend your lives, young men I pray,  
 And do no more offend

That great and mighty God above,  
 Whose kingdom hath no end,  
 He's a God that merciful is,  
 To all that do believe  
 In Jesus Christ his only Son,  
 Who will our sins forgive.  
 Pray do repent of all your sins,  
 Before it is too late;  
 And beg the help of God above,  
 For Jesus Christ his sake;  
 Who suffered death upon the cross,  
 To make a recompence,  
 To all that do in him believe,  
 Before he did go hence.  
 In him I do put all my trust,  
 Whose mercy is full sure,  
 Hoping my soul with him shall dwell,  
 Henceforth for evermore. Amen.

“ This I writ as my last farewell ;

“ Hoping my soul with Christ shall dwell.” Amen,  
 THOMAS COOK.

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Short Narrative of the Case of GERALD FITZGERALD; who was executed at *Tyburn*, for Murder.

**G**ERALD FITZGERALD was the son of a capital farmer near Limerick, in Ireland, where he was born in the year 1671, and educated in the Protestant religion, his father being of that persuasion.

At the age of fifteen he came to London, to learn the art of peruke making, under a relation of his father's: but soon associating himself with  
 bad

bad company, he ran away from his kinsman at the expiration of three years, and entered into the service of Sir Henry Johnson; and had the direction of the domestic affairs of his new master. However he had not been long in this service when his old associates persuaded him to leave it on which he entered on board a man of war, and was soon advanced to the station of steward to the captain.

He made some voyages to the East and West-Indies, and on his return to England was married to a relation of the captain, a young lady, whose singular good qualities were admirably calculated to give happiness to any man who possessed wisdom sufficient to know in what true happiness consists.

He had not been married many months before he went out as purser to a man of war bound to the East Indies; but this ship being lost on the coast of China, he returned to England in a merchantman, and afterwards sailed as a purser in a ship of war, which took some prizes, of which Fitz-Gerald received his share.

Being again in London, he began to grow neglectful of his wife, engaged in the vices of the town, kept the worst company, and frequented houses of ill fame. In one of these he quarrelled with a gentleman, named Pix, respecting a woman of the town, and a violent contention arising, Fitz-Gerald killed the other on the spot with his sword.

For this offence he was tried at the Old Bailey, and being convicted on full evidence, he was hanged at *Tyburn*, on the 22d of December, 1703, dying a sincere penitent for his crimes; which, though aggravated in their nature, had been but of short continuance.

The fate of Fitz-Gerald should afford a lesson of caution to youth in general, never to associate with women of abandoned character; and, in particular, this resolution ought to be impressed on the minds of married men. This unhappy malefactor was united in wedlock with a young lady, whose relation to him demanded his protection, and whose superior virtues had every claim to his tenderest regard; yet, in a rash quarrel about a woman of the town, could he murder his friend, make his relations wretched, and bring destruction on his own head.

Fitz-Gerald had been educated in a strict regard to the duties of religion; but this wore off by his being a constant witness of that dissoluteness of manners which too frequently prevails on board our ships, where it often happens that no chaplain attends to perform that duty, for the discharge of which he is paid out of the wages of the seamen: a shameful abuse, which calls for redress from those whose station includes the superintendence of naval affairs!

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Relation of the fate of THOMAS SHARP, who was hanged at the end of *Long Acre*, for murdering a watchman.

**T**HIS offender was born in the city of Exeter, in the year 1674, and when he was advanced to man's estate, he enlisted for a soldier, and having served abroad for some time, the regiment he belonged to was ordered to England, when Sharp soon deserting from it, commenced housebreaker, in company of a set of vile and abandoned miscreants, who at that time committed

mitted the most horrid depredations in the neighbourhood of London and Westminster.

Sharp having committed a burglary in the house of Mrs. Brown of St. Giles's, was soon afterwards taken into custody, and being tried and convicted of the fact, sentence of death was passed on him; but he was afterwards pardoned, on the condition of again entering into the regiment from which he had deserted.

Such, however, was the force of that habit of vice which he had acquired, that it was not long before he again deserted, and returned to his former practices, which he carried to such a height, that the week seldom passed in which he was not concerned in breaking open several houses: and this dangerous trade he and his associates continued for about two years after Sharp had received his pardon for the former offence; and probably their depredations might have continued for a considerable time longer, but that Sharp was guilty of a most enormous crime, which rendered his fate equally speedy and certain.

While he was making an attempt to break open a house in Drury-lane, and when he had nearly succeeded, he was seen by a watchman, who immediately alarmed his brother officers of the night. Sharp was so enraged at this detection, that he instantly pulled a pistol from his pocket, shot the watchman dead on the spot, and endeavoured to make his escape: but by this time the other watchmen being alarmed, he was taken into custody, detained for that night, and committed to Newgate on the following day.

When he was brought to his trial, the jury were fully convinced of his guilt, in consequence of which he was convicted, and sentenced to be hanged at the end of Long-Acre, very near the spot

spot where the murder was committed; and in this place he suffered on the 22d of September, 1704.

The short lesson to be learnt from the fate of this malefactor is, to be "content with that station to which it has pleased God to call us." The situation of a private soldier is not the most agreeable; but when a man has been rash enough to enlist, he should have prudence enough to serve with patience and resignation till he can obtain an honourable discharge.

It is a circumstance to be lamented that the pay of our common soldiers is no greater now than it was more than half a century ago, though some provisions are more than doubled in price before the expiration of that period. Hence, probably, it arises, that we have such an amazing number of thieves among our common soldiers; a number much greater than is generally imagined; for when a military man is committed to Newgate for trial, it is not expressed that he is a soldier. In a word, the condition of these men is pitiable in a high degree; and we ought to encrease the pay of our soldiers, or lessen the number on the present establishment.

Incidents respecting the Life and Execution of  
**JOHN SMITH**, who suffered at *Tyburn* for robbing on the Highway.

**JOHN SMITH** was born at Winchcomb, about ten miles from the city of Gloucester, of honest parents, who gave him a decent and religious education, and brought him up to the business of peruke-making: but being of an idle  
 and

and extravagant disposition, he quitted his employment, and went to sea; and though he continued a sailor but a short time, yet his manners became more abandoned during this short period.

Having quitted the naval service he became intimately acquainted with a person of his own profession in Chancery-lane, with whom he agreed to go and commit depredations on the highway; and, in consequence of this determination, they set out together on Sunday, the 29th of October, 1704.

They proceeded as far as Paddington, where they waited in expectation of seeing some person whom they might rob; and in this interval Smith looked over a file, and seeing the gallows (which was then left always standing) at Tyburn, he was struck with a sense of the danger and ignominy to which he was exposing himself, and hereupon he would have advised his companion to go home; but the latter refused so to do, and ridiculed Smith for his timidity.

A short while after one Mr. Birch rode down the road, whom they robbed of his mare; and on the following day Smith set out on this mare, and robbed the passengers in three stage-coaches near Epping-Forest. On the next Wednesday he committed depredations on three other stage-coaches and a Hackney-coach, on Hounslow-Heath; and on the Saturday following he robbed three more coaches in the neighbourhood of St. Alban's, in all which robberies he did not obtain booty to the amount of above twenty pounds.

On Monday, November the sixth, Smith attacked a gentleman's carriage on Finchley-Common; but being immediately pursued, he was taken into custody, and being tried at the next sessions held at the Old-Bailey, he was capitally

convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 20th of December, 1704, after confessing the justice of his sentence, and hoping that youth would take warning by his fatal example, and avoid those practices that had brought him to final ruin.

There is something remarkable in this malefactor that he was a highwayman of only eight days standing at the utmost; for the first robbery that he committed was on the 29th of October, and the last on the sixth of November, as above-mentioned.

Various sermons have been preached on the brevity of human life; but surely none of them can strike the mind more forcibly than the conclusion to be drawn from the fate of this malefactor. What a short period from the first notorious violation of the law, to the becoming an instance of its utmost rigour!

We do not often find that criminals are cut off after so very short a career as this man: but those who abandon themselves to the making unlawful depredations on their neighbours may be morally certain that they have but a short time to live, and even that this short period shall be filled with care, anxiety, and perturbation. What man can rest in his bed, who lies down with the consciousness of having robbed his neighbour? Sleep is absolutely necessary to the support of the human frame; to be sure thieves may sleep when only overcome by drunkenness: but even then their sleep must be disturbed; and they must, in the language of the poet, "fear each bush an officer." A felon, convicted in his own mind, can scarcely take up a news-paper, in which he will not read something respecting wretches in circumstances in some degree corresponding with his own.

What



What a dreadful life ! and how easy to avoid it by a strict adherence to the maxim, “ Do unto all “ men, as you would they should do unto you.”

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Particulars of the Life, Trial, Confession, and Execution, &c. of WILLIAM ELBY, who was hanged at *Fulham*, for House-breaking, and Murder.

WILLIAM ELBY was indicted for robbing the house of — Barry, Esq. of *Fulham*, and murdering his gardener; the circumstances of which horrid tale are as follow :

This man having determined on robbing the house, arrived at *Fulham* soon after midnight, and had wrenched open one of the windows, at which he was getting in, when the gardener awaking, came down to prevent the intended robbery.

As the gardener had a light in his hand, Elby, terrified lest he should be known, seized a knife, and stabbed him to the heart, of which wound the poor man fell dead at his feet. This being done, he broke open a chest of drawers, and stole about two hundred and fifty pounds, with which he immediately repaired to his associates in London.

This Elby was naturally inclined to gaiety, and dressed in a stile much above people of his profession ; but being at this juncture in possession of a greater sum of money than usual, those who knew him suspected that it could not have been honestly obtained ; and every one now talking of the horrid murder that had been committed at *Fulham*, the idea occurred that it had been perpetrated by Elby ; and their suspicion was strengthened, by reflecting that he began to

abound in each immediately after the murder was committed.

Elby at this period used to frequent a public-house in the Strand, where being casually in company, the robbery and murder at Fulham became the subject of conversation. Hereupon Elby turned pale, and seeing one of the company go out of the room, he was so terrified that he immediately ran out of the house without paying the reckoning.

Some short time after Elby was gone, a person called for him; but as he was not there, said he would go to his lodgings. The landlord, enraged that the reckoning had not been paid, demanded where he lived, which being told, and remarked by the person who called, he was taken into custody the next day, and committed on suspicion of the robbery and murder.

Elby on his trial steadily denied the perpetration of the crimes with which he was charged, and his conviction would have been very doubtful, but that a woman with whom he cohabited became an evidence, and swore that he came from Fulham with the money the morning after the perpetration of the fact.

Some other persons likewise deposed, that they saw him come out of Mr. Barry's house on the morning the murder was committed; but as they did not know what had happened, they had entertained no suspicion of him.

This circumstance being sufficient conviction, Elby received sentence of death, and being executed at *Fulham* on the 13th of September, 1704, was hung in chains near the place where the crime was committed.

Elby confessed that he committed the robbery, and that he had been guilty of many other crimes; but

but denied being guilty of the murder, declaring that an accomplice murdered the gardener. In this, however, not the slightest regard could be paid to his declaration, nothing arising in the course of the evidence, to intimate that he had any confederate.

William Elby was born in the year 1673, at Deptford in Kent, and served his time with a blockmaker at Rotherhithe, during which he became acquainted with some women of ill fame. After the term of his apprenticeship was expired he kept company with some young fellows of such bad character, that he found it necessary to enter on board a ship to prevent worse consequences.

Having returned from sea he enlisted as a soldier; but while in this situation he committed many small thefts, in order to support bad women with whom he was connected.

At length he deserted from the army, assumed a new name, and prevailed on some of his companions to engage in house-breaking; and thus proceeding from one degree of vice to another, till he committed the crime for which his life became the just sacrifice to the insulted laws of his country.

Some few remarks on the conduct and fate of this malefactor may tend to the service of such of the rising generation, whose passions may tempt them to deviate from the paths of virtue.

The first and grand cause of suspicion against Elby, was his abounding in money soon after the robbery was committed. It generally happens that thieves spend in extravagance what they have dishonestly obtained; so true is the old saying, "What's got over the devil's back is spent under his belly." The circumstance of his turning  
pale;

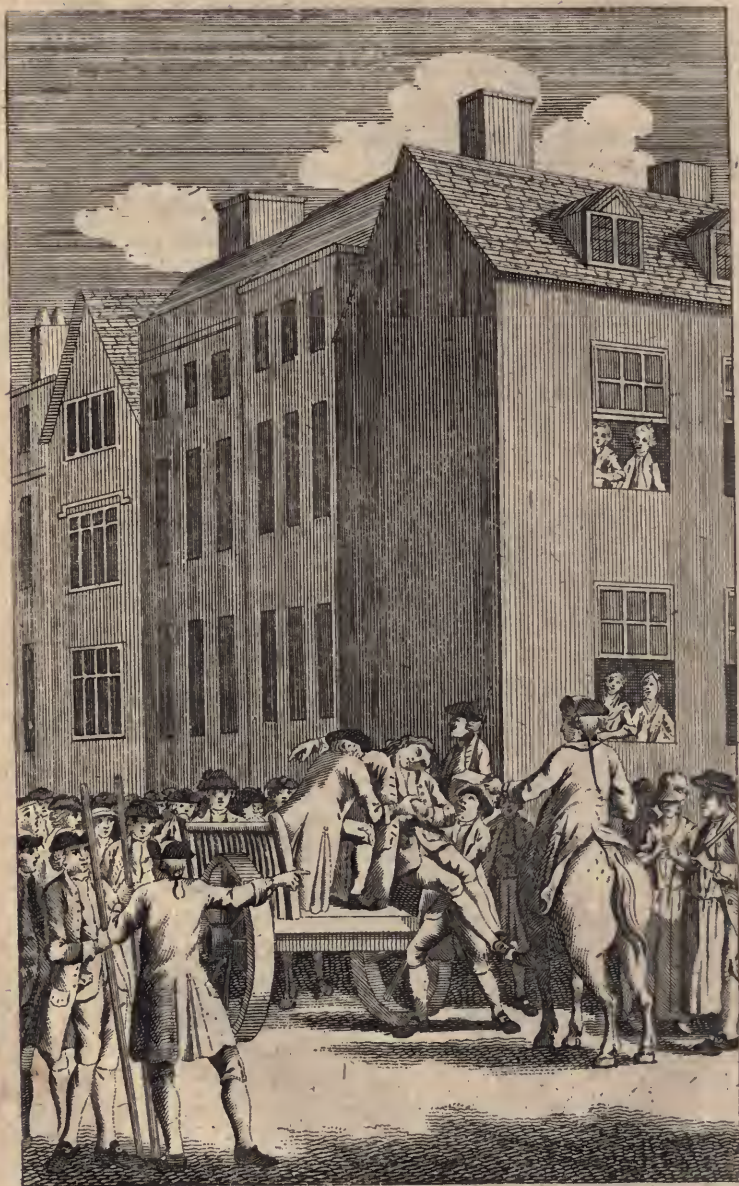
pale, and his hasty departure from the room at the public-house where the robbery and murder were mentioned, mark, in a very striking manner, the agonizing tortures of a guilty conscience !

Elby was no sooner gone than a person came to enquire for him, whence a discovery was made of his lodgings, and he was taken into custody ; and the most material witness against him on his trial proves to be a woman with whom he had cohabited. Hence let persons of dishonest lives learn, that notwithstanding all their previous care and secrecy they are never safe, even for a single moment, and that those in whom they most confide may be the immediate instruments, in the hand of providence, to bring them to condign punishment.

His denying his principal guilt to the last moment, proves that the mind dreads the fear of public censure, even at the moment the body is about to become an immediate prey to the worms. Hence, let every man blush to be guilty of a crime, which in his dying moments, he must necessarily blush to acknowledge.

Let virtue all our footsteps guide,  
 And all our ways attend,  
 Guard us through life with decent pride,  
 Sustain us in our end !  
 For let misfortunes e'er so great,  
 Oppress us e'er so hard ;  
 Yet virtue will, or soon or late,  
 Attain its due reward !





Valois sculp

A reprieve brought for a Criminal on the road to Tyburn.

Circumstantial Account of the Life, Trial, and Execution of EDWARD JEFFERIES, gentleman, who was convicted, and executed at *Tyburn*, for the Murder of ROBERT WOODCOCK; with other Particulars respecting ELIZABETH TORSHELL, who was acquitted of the same Murder.

EDWARD JEFFERIES, who is the principal subject of this narrative, was born about the year 1666, at the Devizes, in Wiltshire. He served his clerkship to an eminent attorney in London, and afterwards carried on business on his own account; but his father dying while he was yet young, and leaving him a considerable fortune, he entered into too profuse a way of living, and embarked in the debaucheries of the age, which dissipated his substance.

Soon after, however, he had the good fortune to marry a young lady of St. Albans, with whom he received a decent fortune, and might have lived in prosperity with her, but that he continued in his former course of debauchery, which naturally occasioned a separation.

Jefferies now associated with one Mrs. Elizabeth Torshell, with whom Mr. Woodcock had likewise an illicit connection. Jefferies and Woodcock had frequent debates respecting this woman, but at length appeared to be reconciled, and dined together at the Blue Posts near Pall-Mall, on the day that he committed the murder.

After dinner, they went into the fields near Chelsea, and a quarrel arising between them respecting Mrs. Torshell, Jefferies drew his sword; and before Woodcock, who was left-handed could draw his, he received a wound, of which he almost immediately died. Woodcock had no sooner fallen than Jefferies rubbed some of his  
blood

blood upon his (the deceased's) sword, took something out of his pocket, and then went towards Chelsea, where he had appointed to meet Mrs. Torshell.

There were some boys playing in the fields who saw the body of the deceased, and a part of the transaction above-mentioned. The body was removed to St. Martin's church-yard to be owned; and on the following day Mrs. Torshell came, among a crowd of other people, to see it; and was taken into custody, on her saying she knew the murdered party, and expressing great concern at his fate.

Torshell's lodgings being searched, a number of articles were found, which she owned Mr. Jefferies had brought thither, though they appeared to have belonged to Woodcock. On this Jefferies was also taken into custody, and both of them were committed to Newgate.

Mr. Jefferies alledged in his defence that he was at another place at the time the murder was committed; he called several witnesses to prove an alibi; but as these did not agree in the circumstances, he was convicted, and received sentence of death, Mrs. Torshell was acquitted.

All the while he lay under condemnation he repeatedly denied the having committed the murder, and exerted all his interest to obtain a reprieve, which he was at length promised, through the mediation of the duke of Ormond.

September the 9th, 1705, when the procession towards Tyburn had got as far as St. Giles's a respite met him, to defer his execution till the 21st of the same month; but on that day he was executed, his guilt being too apparent.

At the place of execution, he again denied the fact: but said he freely forgave those who had injured



jured him, and died in perfect charity with all mankind. He did not appear in the least dejected on account of his calamitous situation; but desired the prayers of all good christians in the last moments of his life.

From the case of the above wretched malefactor we may learn the evil consequence of living a dissipated life. If Mr. Jefferies had gone on in the way marked out for him by Providence, he might have lived in a high degree of credit and reputation; but he, like the prodigal son, wasted his substance in riotous living. However, on his marriage, he had a second chance for happiness; but, like the cock in the fable, he threw away the jewel which he had obtained in a wife.

From his connection with Mrs. Torshell we may learn, that as it was contrary to the laws of the church, and in defiance of those of morality, so, connections of that sort ought to be particularly avoided by married men of every rank of life. The instances are comparatively few where a connection of this kind leads to murder: but as every such connection is a deviation from the laws of virtue and honour, they ought carefully to be shunned by every man who has a regard to his reputation in this world, or his happiness in the next.

Account of the singular Case of JOHN SMITH, called HALF-HANGED SMITH, who was convicted, but escaped Death in a most remarkable manner.

**T**HIS malefactor was the son of a farmer at Malton about fifteen miles from the city of York, who bound him apprentice to a packer

in London, with whom he served out his time, and afterwards worked as a journeyman. He then went to sea in a merchant-man, after which he entered on board a man of war, and was at the famous expedition against Vigo; but on the return from that expedition he was discharged.

He had not been long disengaged from the naval service when he enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of guards commanded by lord Cutts; but in this station he soon made bad connections, and engaged with some of his dissolute companions as a house-breaker.

On the 5th of December 1705, he was arraigned on four different indictments, on two of which he was convicted, and received sentence of death. While he lay under sentence he seemed very little affected with his situation, absolutely depending on a reprieve through the interest of his friends.

However, an order came for his execution on the 24th day of the same month, in consequence of which he was carried to Tyburn, where he performed his devotions, and was turned off in the usual manner; but when he had hung near fifteen minutes, the people present cried out "A reprieve!" Hereupon the malefactor was cut down, and being conveyed to a house in the neighbourhood, he soon recovered, in consequence of bleeding, and other proper applications.

When he perfectly recovered his senses, he was asked what were his feelings at the time of execution; to which he repeatedly replied, in substance, as follows; that, "when he was turned off, he, for some time, was sensible of very great pain, occasioned by the weight of his body, and felt his spirits in a strange commotion, violently pressing upwards: that having  
" forced

“ forced their way to his head, he, as it were,  
 “ saw a great blaze or glaring light, which seemed  
 “ to go out at his eyes with a flash, and then  
 “ he lost all sense of pain. That after he was cut  
 “ down, and began to come to himself, the blood  
 “ and spirits forcing themselves into their former  
 “ channels, put him, by a sort of pricking or  
 “ shooting, to such intolerable pain, that he could  
 “ have wished those hanged who had cut him  
 “ down.”

After this narrow escape from the grave, Smith pleaded to his pardon on the 20th of February: yet such was his propensity to evil deeds, that he returned to his former practices, and being again apprehended, was tried at the Old-Bailey for house-breaking; but some difficulties arising in the case, the jury brought in a special verdict, in consequence of which the affair was left to the opinion of the twelve judges, who determined in favour of the prisoner.

After this second extraordinary escape, he was a third time indicted; but the prosecutor happening to die before the day of trial, he once more obtained that liberty which his conduct shewed he had not deserved.

We have no account what became of this man after this third remarkable incident in his favour: but Christian charity inclines us to hope that he made a proper use of the singular dispensations of Providence evidenced in his own person.

History scarce affords a more extraordinary case than this of Smith: but let no one who reads this account of his triple escape from the gallows indulge a moment's inclination to the pursuit of illicit practices: since, in almost every instance but the present, the ways of vice assuredly lead to destruction; and we are not assured that they did

not do so in his case; for the sequel of his life has not come to our knowledge.

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Narrative of the Case of ROGER LOWEN; who was hanged at Turnham-Green, for Murder.

THE unfortunate subject of this narrative was a native of Hanover, where he was born about the year 1667, and educated in the principles of the Lutheran religion. His father being huntsman to the duke of Zell, that prince sent young Lowen into France to obtain the qualifications of a gentleman; and on his return from his travels he was one of the pages under the duke's master of the horse.

Coming over to England when he was between twenty and thirty years of age, the duke of Shrewsbury patronized him, and procured him a place. Having thus obtained something like a settlement, he married a young English woman, with whom he lived in an affectionate manner for a considerable time: but, in the year 1697, on his going abroad to attend king William at the treaty of Ryswick, he left Mrs. Lowen with her cousin, who was married to Mr. Richard Lloyd of Turnham-Green.

When Lowen returned from Holland, he became, with what justice we cannot say, extremely jealous of his wife, and he pretended to have received incontestible proof of her criminal conversation with Mr. Lloyd, for the murder of whom he was indicted at the Old-Bailey, on the 20th of September, 1706, and was tried by a jury composed equally of Englishmen and foreigners.

In the course of the evidence it appeared that on the evening preceding the day on which the murder was committed, Lowen invited Lloyd and his wife to dine with him on the following day: that Mr. Lloyd, being obliged to go to Acton, did not come very early; at which Lowen expressed a considerable degree of uneasiness: that when he came, Lowen introduced him into the parlour, with great apparent civility. That Mr. Lloyd put his sword in a corner of the room, some time after which Lowen invited him into the garden to see his plants: after which they came together into the house, appearing to be good friends, and Lowen desired his wife to hasten the dinner: that while she went to obey his directions, Lowen drew Mr. Lloyd's sword a little way out of the scabbard, as if admiring it, and asked who was his cutler; and that while the deceased stood with his hands behind him, Lowen, stamping with his foot, drew the sword quite out of the scabbard, and stabbed Mr. Lloyd through the back; on which his wife, (who was present at this horrid transaction) said to him, "Speak to me my dear;" but he was unable to do so, and having lifted up his eyes, groaned twice, and then expired.

Mr. Hawley, a justice of peace in the neighbourhood, passing by at the instant, Mrs. Lloyd acquainted him with what had happened; on which he examined the prisoner, who confessed his intention of having committed the murder sooner, and was only concerned lest he had not killed Mr. Lloyd.

The particulars respecting the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, Lowen was convicted, and received sentence of death, in consequence

sequence of which he was hanged at Turnham-Green, on the 25th of October, 1706.

While he lay under sentence of death he was attended by Messrs. Idzardi and Rupert, two Divines of his own country, who were assiduous to convince him of the atrociousness of the crime which he had committed; and he became a sincere penitent, confessing with his last breath the crime he had committed in shedding innocent blood.

From this melancholy narrative we may learn the fatal effects of jealousy, which generally judges ill of the party accused, and always renders the jealous person miserable. Mr. Lowen was jealous of his wife; but we have no proof that there was any foundation for his suspicions. Hence let married men be taught not to indulge unwarrantable sentiments respecting that amiable sex who are the great source of all the comforts of life. A man may be wretched in a thousand instances which occur in life; but let him retire to the wife of his bosom, and her advice will extricate him from many a difficulty, or her consolations soothe him to bear his burthens. There is great wisdom in the following proverbs of Solomon, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband does safely trust in her, so that she shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil, all the days of her life. Her children arise up, and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Account of the Life, Trial, and Behaviour of  
 JOHN HERMAN BRIAN, who was hanged in  
 Chains, for robbing, and setting fire to the  
 House of PETER PERSUADE, Esq.

**T**HIS malefactor was a native of Dully, a vil-  
 lage in the bailiwick of Morge, in the Can-  
 ton of Berne in Switzerland, where he was born  
 about the year 1683. He left Switzerland while  
 very young, and went to Geneva, where he lived  
 in the service of a gentleman above four years,  
 and then made the tour of Italy with a person of  
 fortune.

When the tour was compleated he came to  
 England, and lived in several reputable families  
 for the space of about three years, and last of all,  
 for about two months, in that of Mr. Persuade,  
 where he committed the facts which cost him his  
 life.

He was brought to his trial on the 16th of Oc-  
 tober, 1707, and indicted for breaking open the  
 dwelling-house of Peter Persuade, Esq. and steal-  
 ing a gold etwee case and chain, a gold watch,  
 seventeen guineas, and other valuable effects. He  
 was likewise indicted for burning and consuming  
 the mansion-house of Peter Persuade, Esq. in St.  
 James's-Street.

It appeared in evidence, that the prisoner had  
 been discharged from his service two days before  
 the commission of the fact; that the house was  
 made fast about ten at night, when the family  
 went to bed; that Mrs. Persuade had locked up  
 her watch, etwee case, &c. that waking about  
 three in the morning she smelt a fire, on which  
 she left her chamber, and found a lighted flam-  
 beaux in the passage, which had burnt the boards;

then opening a parlour-door the flames spread with such rapidity that the family had only time to preserve their lives.

A poor woman going by at the time, and seeing the smoke, knocked at the door to alarm the family, and at that instant saw a man come over the wall, (supposed to be Brian) who said to her “ D—n you, are you drunk? What do you do here knocking at people’s doors at this time?” and immediately he went away.

It likewise came out in evidence that the prisoner had offered to sell the etwee-case to Messrs. Stevenfon and Acton, Goldsmiths, for eight pounds; but they stopped it on suspicion that it was stolen, and, on enquiry, found to whom it belonged. The prisoner afterwards returning to demand it, they took him into custody, and being carried before a magistrate, and searched, a dagger and two pistols were found on him.

As the goldsmiths suspected it to be stolen, it may seem extraordinary that they did not stop the prisoner at first: but this was not customary seventy years ago. It is a doctrine well worthy notice, that in case of felony, every man is a constable, and runs no hazard in taking the suspected party into custody.

It appeared, from the testimony of other evidences, that when the prisoner quitted the service of Mr. Persuade, he took a lodging in Soho, but was not at home on the night that the facts were committed; and at noon on the following day he quitted this lodging, and took another in Spitalfields, to which he conveyed a trunk, a box, and a bundle, which were found to contain part of Mr. Persuade’s effects.

It



It likewise appeared that he had sold a fowling-piece and two pistols, which were stolen from Mr. Persuade. On his trial he denied every thing that was alledged against him; asserting that he bought all the goods of a stranger; but as he adduced nothing like proof in support of this assertion, the jury found him guilty without the least hesitation.

While under sentence of death he steadily denied being guilty of the offences of which he had been convicted; and reflected on the prosecutor, magistrates, witnesses and jury; persisting in a declaration of his innocence to the last moment of his life; however, the circumstances against him were so unusually strong, that not the least credit could be given to his declarations.

Brian likewise made repeated attempts to escape out of Newgate, by unscrewing and filing off his irons; but being detected herein, he was properly secured till the time of his execution; and being asked by the ordinary of Newgate how he could waste his precious time in such fruitless attempts, he answered that "Life was sweet, and that any other man as well as himself would endeavour to save it if he could."

This offender suffered the sentence of the law in St. James's Street before Mr. Persuade's house, on the 24th of October, 1707, and was afterwards hanged in chains near the gravel-pits at Acton.

From the fate of this malefactor some useful lessons may be derived. It seldom happens that a robbery is committed but some of the stolen goods are offered to sale. In this case, if the intended purchaser be honest, detection must always follow; for in general it is easy to judge from ap-

pearances and other circumstances, whether the effects that a man offers are really his own property, or entrusted to his care by any person who has a right to dispose of them.

Of late years, however, our felons have found a more secure method than they had formerly of disposing of their spoils. There are now many secret receivers of stolen goods, who to the shame of our country flourish in their profligate courses, for as they get great bargains of those articles, which cannot for fear of detection, be offered to many, of course they reap more than common emolument. They have likewise their methods of secretly disposing of them, and that also to the best advantage among themselves, or by transmitting them abroad. Were there no such dishonest characters as these the number of pick-pockets would certainly decrease, it is therefore no unjust remark, that the receiver is as bad as the thief.

If nothing that was stolen could be safely disposed of, scarce any thing would be taken but money; and how few instances have we, of highway robberies, except where the obtaining of ready cash is the principal object of the villain's search?

The crime of the malefactor before us is heightened by murder, being added to robbery; for though in the event no person's life was lost, his intention was as criminal as if the whole neighbourhood had been reduced to ashes, and all the inhabitants had perished in the flames.

The view of Brian must have been to conceal the robbery by the fire. Hence let those who are tempted to do an evil act learn that the commission of a small crime as naturally leads to the perpetration of a greater, as the waters of rivers flow into

into the sea. Let them learn to guard against the first inducement to an evil act: let them resist it with all the resolution in their power, and devoutly pray for that assistance against temptation, which may be reasonably expected by those who ask it in the full confidence of faith.

We should likewise observe, that robberies attempted and perpetrated in the night, are generally discovered in the broad face of day, to the confusion of the offender.

Almighty God, thy piercing eye  
Strikes through the shades of night,  
And our most secret actions lie  
All open to thy sight.

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Narrative of the Life, various Robberies, and Execution of JOHN HALL, a Chimney-Sweeper, who was executed at *Tyburn*, for Burglary.

**J**ACK HALL was remarkably distinguished in his time on account of the number and variety of robberies in which he was concerned; and few thieves have been more the subject of public conversation.

Hall's parents were very poor people, living in Bishop's-Head-Court, Gray's-Inn-Lane, who put him out to a chimney-sweeper; but he had not been long in this employment, before he quitted it, and commenced pickpocket, and was accounted very dextrous in that profession; but notwithstanding this dexterity he was frequently detected, and treated in the usual manner, by ducking in the horse-pond: he was likewise often sent to Bridewell, as a punishment for these offences.

Notwithstanding frequent punishments of this nature, he commenced shop-lifter, and, in the month of January 1698, he was convicted at the Old Bailey of stealing a pair of shoes; for which he was whipped at the cart's tail: but he had no sooner obtained his liberty than he commenced house-breaker; and being convicted of breaking open the house of Jonathan Bretail, he was sentenced to be hanged, in the year 1700, but was afterwards pardoned, on condition of transporting himself, within six months, to some of the American plantations.

In consequence hereof he entered on board a ship, from which, however, he soon deserted, and engaged with his old accomplices; and they now took up the trade of robbing country waggons, and stealing portmanteaus from behind coaches. For an offence of this latter kind Hall was tried and convicted, in the year 1702, and being first burnt on the cheek, was committed close prisoner to Bridewell for two years.

Hall had no sooner obtained his liberty than he joined with Stephen Bunce, Dick Low, and others of his dissolute companions, in breaking open the house of a baker, at Hackney; which burglary was attended with the following circumstances:

Having broke into the house soon after midnight, and the journeyman and apprentice being at work, the robbers tied them neck and heels, and threw them into the kneading-trough, and one of the villians stood over them with a drawn sword, while the others went up stairs to rob the house: but the baker being unwilling to tell them where the money was, Hall seized a young child, a grand-daughter to the old people,  
and

and swore he would thrust her into the oven, if they did not make the discovery. Terrified at this circumstance the old man told him where they might find his money, in consequence of which they robbed him of about seventy pounds. Notwithstanding this singular robbery was the subject of much conversation, yet the perpetrators of it were not taken into custody. Soon afterwards the house of Francis Saunders, a chairman, near St. James's, was broke open; and Saunders being informed that this robbery was committed by Hall and his companions, he observed these very men, as he was attending at St. James's Gate, about three in the morning; and informing the watchmen, they pursued them; on which Hall and one of his accomplices fired at a watchman, who was wounded in the thigh. Hall escaped; his companions were apprehended and tried, but acquitted for want of evidence.

Hall was in custody in 1705, for breaking open the house of Richard Bartholomew; but he had been so frequently at the Old Bailey, that he was afraid of being tried by his name, and therefore changed it to that of Price; but the evidence not being sufficient to convict him, he was again acquitted. Having obtained his liberty he returned to his former practices, and in October 1706, was indicted for stealing a handkerchief, in company with Arthur Chambers, but once more discharged in defect of evidence.

Repeated as these excesses were, they made no impression on the mind of Hall, who was soon afterwards taken into custody for a fact which he had reason to think would have put an end to his wicked career; wherefore he became an evidence against Chambers, Bell and Fitch, three of his accom-

accomplices, and thus once more preserved his life.

After this he was concerned in breaking open the house of Captain Guyon, near Stepney, in company with Richard Low and Stephen Bunce, and stealing a considerable quantity of plate and other effects.

Of this offence the parties were found guilty, and were executed at Tyburn on the 17th of December, 1707.

John Hall being very celebrated in his profession, the following elegy and epitaph made their appearance soon after his life had paid the forfeit to the violated laws of his country.

*An Elegy on JACK HALL, the Chimney-sweeper.*

**A**T last thy roguish reign is ended,  
And thou deservedly suspended;  
Where art thou now, thou reprobate,  
Who jested at a future state,  
And said the place the devils kept  
Was sooty, wanted to be swept?  
But they consulting did agree,  
To send express away for thee:  
And so thou'rt gone the Tyburn-road,  
The nearest way to their abode.  
But yet 'tis thought that there are store  
Of thy sly trade gone there before;  
Witness the bacon, beef, and tongue,  
Which in the chimnies reezing hung,  
Till by the tribe were swept away,  
For which they now severely pay.  
Methinks I see the sulph'rous shore  
Where clouds of thieves sent there before,  
Thee welcome give with dismal roar.

Did'st

Did'st think the fiends there would be civil  
Because they're known to love what's evil?

Make but thy outside like appear,  
Thy intellects already are:

So put thy sweeping garments on,  
'Twill make each devil think thee one:

Or cause this proverb after all,  
Ha! like to like, says Nick to Hall.

If every rogue throughout the nation,  
Should die, like Hall, by suffocation,

Some now in coaches would in carts  
At Triple-Tree receive deserts;

Lawyers, physicians, courtiers, jailors,  
Would march in troops, and all the taylors:

Nay, I could mention too a L—d,

But, like his S—h, 'twould be absurd,

Besides Scan—Mag—that is the word.

Some hemp likewise should be commixt,

For many who pervert the text,

And what is worse than thieves can do,

Cheat you of soul and money too,

Lead scandalous and wicked lives,

And, like Bell-swagger, ride your wives.

The benefit of the clergy see,

When some poor rogues are at the tree,

Who 'cause they cannot read a verse,

Are made to sing it, and that's worse;

Which, by the by, is charming singing:

They shake so well, remember swinging;

Besides, observe the fatal line,

Makes each exactly stop in time:

O foolish custom! (as one said)

For sinners when they're almost dead

To have such crotchets in their head

If to this elegy a proper tune is,

Pray howl it forth with *Finis Funis.*

## E P I T A P H.

**H**ERE lies Hall's clay,  
 Thus swept away ;  
 If bolt or key  
 Obliged his stay  
 At judgment-day,  
 He'd make essay  
 To get away :  
 Be't as it may,  
 I'd better say,  
 Here lies Jack Hall,  
 And that is all.

This life of Hall affords a short and striking lesson to the sons of rapine. His crimes were numerous, and his escapes repeated; yet he returned to the commission of similar crimes, as if resolutely bent on his own ruin.

There are some instances, though very few, of men whom a single misfortune has tempted to reform the error of their ways. Happy would it be if this was the case in every instance. Few men fall a sacrifice to the first crime; but the first ought to be a warning to every one never to commit a second.

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Particulars of the Lives and Executions of STEPHEN BUNCE and RICHARD LOW, Accomplices of JOHN HALL, who suffered at the same time.

**S**TEPHEN BUNCE was descended from a reputable family in the country of Kent, and educated by his grandfather, who had an estate of 800l. per annum, in the neighbourhood of
   
 of



of Feversham. Bunce being of a wild disposition, was sent to sea; and having made two or three voyages, his ship was ordered to Plymouth, where going on shore, he contracted an acquaintance with the daughter of a publican, whom he married; but his wife who was a vulgar woman, soon making illicit connections, he abandoned her, and repaired to London, where he frequented billiard tables and gaming-houses, and having soon spent his money in bad company, he began to supply his extravagance by committing public depredations.

Bunce continued his illicit practices till he was detected for stealing a sword from the side of an officer of the city trained-bands, for which offence he was tried in August 1705, found guilty, and received sentence of death: but was afterwards pardoned, on the condition that he should transport himself.

As soon as he obtained his liberty, he immediately associated himself with his old companions, and committed several robberies, for one of which he thought he should be convicted: he therefore turned evidence against his accomplices, who were all executed.

Bunce once more at liberty, entered into connections with Jack Hall, with whom he and Low were apprehended for breaking open the house of Captain Guyon; and were tried, convicted, and executed for this offence. Bunce was not quite 28 years of age when he was hanged. He confessed himself penitent; acknowledged the numerous robberies of which he had been guilty, but requested his friends not to petition for his life, as his suffering the rigour of

the law would be the only proper atonement of his numerous crimes.

Richard Low was born near the Horse-Ferry, Westminster, and sent to sea early in life; but quitting the naval employment, he associated with a number of abandoned fellows, who subsisted by plundering the public. In 1704 he was apprehended for house breaking; but acquitted for want of evidence. He was afterwards admitted an evidence against his accomplices, who were all executed on his testimony.

Low having thus again obtained his liberty, began to rob in company with Hall and Bunce; till at length his life paid the forfeit due to his repeated crimes.

In addition to the remarks made on the life of Hall, little can be said, respecting these malefactors. Similar acts of depredation brought them all to the same untimely end. Youth cannot be too frequently or too earnestly warned to avoid those paths that lead to destruction; and they may be assured that no life is, or can be, so agreeable as that which is regulated by the duties of religion, and distinguished by the practice of every moral and social virtue.

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Circumstantial Account of the Life, and Execution of JOHN MORGRIDGE, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for the Murder of Mr. WILLIAM COPE.

**J**OHAN MORGRIDGE was indicted for the wilful murder of William Cope, gentleman, at a sessions held at the Old-Bailey on the 5th of July 1706.

The

The following are the circumstances attending this melancholy case. Cope having obtained the rank of lieutenant in the army, invited several officers to dine with him at the Dolphin Tavern, in Tower street; and one of the parties invited Morgridge likewise to go, assuring him that he would be made welcome on the part of Mr. Cope.

When dinner was over, Cope paid the reckoning, and then each man depositing half a crown, Morgridge and others adjourned to the guard room, to which placé more liquor was sent. They had not been long there before a woman of the town came in a coach, and asked for Captain Cope. Being introduced to the guard room, she remained a short time, and then said, "Who will pay " for " my coach?" Morgridge said, "I will;" and having done so, he advanced to salute her; but she pushed him from her in a disdainful manner, and spoke to him in very abusive terms, which induced him to treat her with the same kind of language.

Morgridge's rudeness was resented by Cope, who took the woman's part, and a violent quarrel ensued between Cope and Morgridge, both of whom were intoxicated. This contest increased to such a degree, that they threw the bottles at each other; till at length Morgridge was so inflamed with passion, that he drew his sword, and stabbed Cope; so that he instantly expired.

Morgridge, being taken into custody, was tried on the day above-mentioned, but a doubt arising in the breasts of the jury, whether he was guilty of murder or manslaughter, they brought in a special verdict, and the affair was left to be determined by the twelve judges.

The judges in consequence hereof met at Serjeant's-Inn, and the case was argued before them by council; when they gave an unanimous opinion that he was guilty of wilful murder, because he did not kill Cope with the weapons he was originally using, but arose from his seat and drew his sword, which was deemed to imply a malicious intention.

Morgridge in the interim, however, made his escape from the Marshalsea Prison, and went into Flanders, where he remained about two years; but being uneasy till he re-visited his native country, he imprudently came back to England, and being apprehended, received sentence of death, and was hanged at Tyburn on the 28th of April, 1708.

John Morgridge was about forty years of age; the place of his birth was Canterbury, and his ancestors had served the crown for above two hundred years. He had been kettle-drummer to the first troop of horse-guards for a considerable time, and was on the point of being advanced in the army, when the unhappy dispute between him and Mr. Cope took place.

When convicted, he was truly sensible of the crime of which he had been guilty, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and submitted to his fate with a devout wish that his misfortune might have its proper effect, in the preventing similar destruction happening to others.

Of several, this is but one instance that we shall have occasion to record, of the fatal consequences arising from a connection with women of abandoned characters: but for a woman of this cast, the two men who were thus sacrificed, the one to the impetuosity of passion, the other to the rigour  
of

of the law, might have lived a credit to themselves, and an advantage to the community.

It may not be improper here to remark on the horrid crime of seduction. The man who is guilty of seducing a modest young woman from the paths of virtue is, in some degree, an accessory to every crime and misfortune she may hereafter be exposed to.

In general women are of natures more gentle, of dispositions more harmless, than men : yet when the mind of a woman is once contaminated, she commonly becomes more vicious even than a man of bad character ; and the amiable softness of the sex seems to be totally eradicated.

Should a youth be tempted to a criminal connection with a woman already debauched by another, let him reflect that he is but seeking to perpetuate that infamy she has acquired, and to render still baser a mind already contaminated. One would imagine that a slight degree of thought would be sufficient to restrain youth from connections of this nature : but, unhappily, the passions are more prevalent than reason, and the connection is made before the youth has given himself time to think of its criminality. May this page of our work be an instructive one ; and may those who are tempted to a commission of the crimes we would reprobate, remember the following lines in the proverbs of Solomon : “ And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger ? For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings. His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. He shall die without instruction ; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.”

Parricular

Particular Account of the Life, Conduct, and Execution of WILLIAM GREGG, who was executed with Morgridge for High-Treason, in corresponding with the Enemies of the Queen.

**W**ILLIAM GREGG was born at Montrose in Scotland, and having received the common instructions in the grammar school of that town, finished his education in the University of Aberdeen, and was intended by his friends for the study of divinity; but his inclination leading him to seek for advancement in the state, he came to London, and soon afterwards went abroad as secretary to the ambassador to the court of Sweden.

Gregg during his residence abroad debauched Swedish ladies, and was guilty of some other irregularities, in consequence of which the ambassador dismissed him from his service, and he was glad to embark for London in the first ship that sailed.

As soon as he arrived in London he was engaged by Mr. Secretary Harley, to write dispatches; and letters of great importance were left unsealed and perused by Gregg. As the account of this malefactor which was given by the ordinary of Newgate is very superficial and unsatisfactory, we shall give the following extracts respecting him from Bishop Burnet's History.

“ At this time two discoveries were made very  
 “ unlucky for Mr. Harley : Tallard wrote often  
 “ to Chamillard, but he sent the letters open to  
 “ the secretary's office to be perused and sealed  
 “ up, and so to be conveyed by the way of Hol-  
 “ land. These were opened upon some suspicion  
 “ in Holland, and it appeared, that one in the  
 “ secretary's office put letters in them, in which,  
 “ as

WILLIAM GREGG—*for High Treason.* III

“ as he offered his service to the courts of France  
“ and St. Germain, so he gave an account of all  
“ transactions here. In one of these he sent a  
“ copy of the letter that the queen was to write  
“ in her own hand to the emperor: and he  
“ marked what parts were drawn by the secre-  
“ tary, and what additions were made to it by the  
“ lord treasurer. This was the letter by which  
“ the queen pressed the sending prince Eugene  
“ into Spain: and this, if not intercepted, would  
“ have been at Versailles many days before it  
“ could reach Vienna.

“ He who sent this, wrote, that by this they  
“ might see what service he could do them, if  
“ well encouraged. All this was sent over to the  
“ duke of Marlborough; and upon search it was  
“ found to be written by one Gregg, a clerk,  
“ whom Harley had not only entertained, but  
“ had taken into a particular confidence, with-  
“ out enquiring into the former parts of his life;  
“ for he was a vicious and a necessitous person,  
“ who had been secretary to the queen’s envoy in  
“ Denmark, but was dismissed by him for his ill  
“ qualities. Harley had made use of him to get  
“ him intelligence, and he came to trust him  
“ with the perusal, and sealing up the letters,  
“ which the French Prisoners, here in England,  
“ sent over to France, and by that means he got  
“ into the method of sending intelligence thither.  
“ He, when seized on, either upon remorse or  
“ hopes of pardon, confessed all, and signed his  
“ confession; upon that he was tried, and plead-  
“ ing guilty, was condemned as a traitor; for  
“ corresponding with the queen’s enemies.

“ At the same time Valiere and Bara, whom  
“ Harley had employed as his spies to go often  
“ over to Calais, under the pretence of bringing  
“ him

“ him intelligence, were informed against, as  
 “ spies employed by France to get intelligence  
 “ from England, who carried over many letters  
 “ to Calais and Bullogne, and, as was believed,  
 “ gave such information of our trade and con-  
 “ voys, that by their means we had made our  
 “ great losses at sea. They were often complain-  
 “ ed of upon suspicion, but they were always  
 “ protected by Harley; yet the presumptions  
 “ against them were so violent. that they were at  
 “ last seized on, and brought up prisoners.”

The whigs took such advantage of this circum-  
 stance, that Mr. Harley was obliged to resign,  
 and his enemies were inclined to carry matters still  
 further, and were resolved, if possible, to find  
 out evidence enough to affect his life. With this  
 view the house of lords ordered a committee to  
 examine Gregg, and the other prisoners, who were  
 very assiduous in the discharge of their commission,  
 as will appear from the following account written  
 by the same author.

“ The lords who were appointed to examine  
 “ Gregg, could not find out much by him; he  
 “ had but newly begun his designs of betraying  
 “ secrets, and he had no associates with him in  
 “ it. He told them, that all the papers of state  
 “ lay so carelessly about the office, that every one  
 “ belonging to it, even the door-keepers, might  
 “ have read them all. Harley’s custom was to  
 “ come to the office late on post-nights, and af-  
 “ ter he had given his orders, and wrote his let-  
 “ ters, he usually went away, and left all to be  
 “ copied out when he was gone. By that means  
 “ he came to see every thing, in particular the  
 “ queen’s letter to the emperor. He said, he  
 “ knew the design on Toulon in May last, but  
 “ he did not discover it; for he had not entered

“ on



“ on his ill practices till October. This was all  
 “ he could say :

“ By the examination of Valiere and Bara, and  
 “ of many others who lived about Dover, and  
 “ were employed by them, a discovery was made  
 “ of a constant intercourse they were in with Ca-  
 “ lais, under Harley’s protection. They often  
 “ went over with boats full of wool, and brought  
 “ back brandy, though both the import and ex-  
 “ port were severely prohibited. They and those  
 “ who belonged to the boats carried over by  
 “ them, were well treated on the French side at  
 “ the governor’s house, or at the commissary’s ;  
 “ they were kept there till their letters were sent  
 “ to Paris, and till returns could be brought  
 “ back, and were all the while upon free cost.  
 “ The order that was constantly given them was,  
 “ that if an English or Dutch ship came up with  
 “ them, they should cast their letters into the sea,  
 “ but that they should not do it when French  
 “ ships came up with them : so they were looked  
 “ on by all on that coast, as the spies of France.  
 “ They used to get what information they could  
 “ both of merchant-ships, and of the ships of  
 “ war that lay in the Downs; and upon that they  
 “ usually went over, and it happened that soon  
 “ after some of those ships were taken. These  
 “ men, as they were papists, so they behaved  
 “ themselves insolently, and boasted much of  
 “ their power and credit.

“ Complaints had been often made of them,  
 “ but they were always protected ; nor did it ap-  
 “ pear that they ever brought any information of  
 “ importance to Harley but once, when, accord-  
 “ ing to what they swore, they told him, that  
 “ Fourbin was gone from Dunkirk, to lie in

“ wait for the Russian fleet; which proved to be  
 “ true: he both went to watch for them, and he  
 “ took a great part of the fleet. Yet though this  
 “ was the single piece of intelligence that they  
 “ ever brought, Harley took so little notice of  
 “ it, that he gave no advertisement to the admiral-  
 “ ralty concerning it. This particular excepted,  
 “ they only brought over common news, and  
 “ the Paris gazetteer. These examinations last-  
 “ ed for some weeks: when they were ended, a  
 “ full report was made of them to the house of  
 “ lords, and they ordered the whole report, with  
 “ all the examination, to be laid before the  
 “ queen.”

Gregg was convicted on the statute of Edward the third, which declares it high treason “ to ad-  
 “ here to the king’s enemies, or to give them aid  
 “ either within or without the realm.”

Immediately after this conviction both houses of parliament petitioned the queen that he might be executed; and he was accordingly hanged at Tyburn, with Mortgridge, on the 29th of April, 1708.

Gregg at the place of execution delivered a paper to the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, in which he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, declared his sincere repentance of all his sins, particularly that lately committed against the queen, whose forgiveness he devoutly implored.

He likewise expressed his wish to make all possible reparation for the injuries he had done; begged pardon, in a particular manner, of Mr. Secretary Harley, and testified the perfect innocence of that gentleman, declaring that he was no way privy, directly or indirectly, to his writing to France. He professed that he died an  
 unwor-

unworthy member of the Protestant church; and that the want of money to supply his extravagancies had tempted him to commit the fatal crime which cost him his life.

Gregg's ruling passion appears to have been ambition; but this was so blended with love of inordinate pleasures, that he was induced to have recourse to the most unwarrantable practices to supply his extravagancies. In both his public situations he was in the regular way to have advanced himself in the state: and prudence, vigilance, caution, and a strict adherence to the great rule of right, would, in all human probability, have gratified the favourite wish of his heart: but permitting himself to be seduced by the violence of his own passions, he deviated from the path of honour, and became an object of public punishment, and public contumely.

Gregg, acted likewise, against his own principles; for while he was corresponding with the enemy, and taking measures to subvert the government, he had no predilection in favour of the pretender. On the contrary, he declared, while he was under sentence of death, that "he never thought he had any right to the throne of these realms."

What strange infatuation appears in the conduct of this man! From his untimely fate may youth be taught that the only road to substantial honour and happiness, is through the path of virtue!

The youth who, led by wisdom's guiding hand,  
Seeks virtue's temple and her law reveres,  
He, he alone, in honour's doom shall stand,  
Crown'd with rewards, and rais'd above his peers:

Th' historian's annals shall record his name,  
And give his virtues to immortal fame.

Account of the Conviction, Trial, and Execution  
of DEBORAH CHURCHILL, as an accomplice in  
Murder with Hunt.

DEBORAH CHURCHILL, whose fate gives rise to this narrative was born about the year 1678, in a village near Norwich. She had several children by her husband, Mr. Churchill, but her temper not being calculated to afford him domestic happiness, he repined at his situation, and destroyed himself by intoxication.

Deborah, after this event came to London, and being much too idle and too proud to think of earning a subsistence by her industry, she ran considerably in debt; and in order to extricate herself from her incumbrances, had recourse to a method which was formerly as common as it is unjust. Going to a public-house in Holborn, she saw a soldier, and asked if he would marry her. The man immediately answered in the affirmative, on which they went in a coach to the Fleet, where the nuptial knot was instantly tied.

Mrs. Churchill, whose maiden name is unknown, having obtained a certificate of her marriage, enticed her husband to drink till he was quite inebriated, and then gave him the slip, happy in this contrivance to screen herself from an arrest.

A little after this, she cohabited with a young fellow named Hunt, with whom she lived more than six years. Hunt appears to have been a youth of a rakish disposition. He behaved very ill to this unhappy woman, who, however, loved him to distraction; and at length forfeited her life in consequence of the regard that she had for him.

One night as Mr. Hunt and one of his associates were returning from the Theatre, in company with Mrs. Churchill, that a quarrel arose between the men, who immediately drew their swords; while Mrs. Churchill, anxious for the safety of Hunt, interposed, and kept his antagonist at a distance, in consequence of which he received a wound, of which he died almost immediately.

No sooner was the murder committed than Hunt effected his escape, and eluding his pursuers, arrived safely in Holland; but Mrs. Churchill was apprehended on the spot, and being taken before a magistrate, was committed to Newgate.

November 1708, at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, Mrs. Churchill was indicted as an accomplice on the act of the first year of king James the first, called the statute of stabbing, by which it is enacted, that “If any one stabs another, who hath not at that time a weapon drawn, or hath not first stricken the party who stabs, is deemed guilty of murder, if the person stabbed die within six months afterwards.”

Mrs. Churchill being convicted, pleaded a state of pregnancy, in bar to her execution; and a jury of matrons being impannelled, declared that they were ignorant whether she was with child or not. Hereupon the court, willing to allow all reasonable time in a case of this nature, respited judgment for six months, at the end of which time she received sentence of death, as there was no appearance of her being pregnant.

This woman's behaviour was extremely penitent; but she denied her guilt to the last moment of her life, having no conception that she had committed murder, because she did not herself stab the deceased.

She

She was hanged at Tyburn, on the 17th of December, 1708.

The following lessons of instruction may be derived from the fatal end of this woman. Her unhappy temper induced her first husband to have recourse to strong liquors, which killed him. Hence let married women learn to keep a guard on their tempers, and always to meet their husbands with smiles of complacency and good nature. Marriage is either a heaven or a hell upon earth, according to the mutual behaviour of the parties.

The unworthy attachment to Hunt, is a strong proof of the capriciousness of the female mind; but she is only one instance among thousands of a woman proving a bad wife, and entertaining an affection for a man no way worthy her regard. We wish, for the honour of the fair sex, that these instances may daily decrease: that female virtue may triumph through the land, and that every departure from it may be deemed as criminal in the eyes of the sex in general, as it undoubtedly is in the sight of heaven. It should be seriously remembered by every woman, that "matriage is honourable, and the bed undefiled."

Life, Character, and Execution of CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTERFORD, for the Murder of JANE YOUNG, for which he had been before acquitted.

**C**HRISTOPHER STRAUGHTERFORD was the son of a miller at Westbury-Green, in Surry, who apprenticed him at Godalbin, and when

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when his time was expired, he lived in several situations, and afterwards took a malt-house at Shalford, when his aunt became his house-keeper, and he acquired a moderate sum of money by his industry.

Slaughterford now paid his addresses to Jane Young, and it was generally supposed he intended to marry her. The last time he was seen in her company was on the evening of the 5th of October, 1708, from which day she was not heard of for a considerable time, on which suspicions arose that Slaughterford had murdered her.

In about a month afterwards the body of the unfortunate girl was found in a pond, with several marks of violence on it; and the public suspicion being still fixed on Slaughterford, he voluntarily surrendered himself to two justices of the peace, who directed that he should be discharged: but as he was still accused by his neighbours, he went to a third magistrate, who committed him to the marshalsea, in consequence of which he was tried at the next assizes at Kingston, and acquitted.

All the neighbours, however, still insisted that he was guilty, and prevailed on the relations of the deceased to bring an appeal for a new trial; and many persons subscribed towards the expence of it accordingly.

He was tried the next term, by a Surry jury, in the Court of Queen's-Bench, before Chief Justice Holt, the appeal being lodged in the name of Henry Young, brother and heir to the deceased.

An appeal after an acquittal on charge of murder is somewhat singular; and it ought to be done with the utmost caution, because after conviction on an appeal, the king has no power to pardon.

The

The same evidence was given on the second trial as on the first; yet so different were the sentiments of the two juries, that Slaughterford was now found guilty, and received sentence of death.

It may be proper to mention the heads of some of the depositions, that the reader may judge of the propriety of the verdict.

One Elizabeth Chapman, the mistress of Jane Young deposed, that when the young woman left her service, she said she was going to be married to the prisoner, that she had purchased new cloaths on the occasion, and declared she was to meet him on the Sunday following: That this deponent some time afterwards enquired after Jane Young, and asking if she was married, was informed that she had been seen in the company of Slaughterford, but no one could tell what was become of her since, and that he himself pretended he knew nothing of her, but thought she had been at home with Mrs. Chapman: which induced this deponent to believe that some mischief had befallen her.

It was proved by other witnesses, that Jane Young was in company with the prisoner; on the night that the murder was committed; and one man swore that, at three in the morning he met a man and a woman on a common, about a quarter of a mile from the place where the body was found; that the man wore light-coloured cloaths (as it was proved the prisoner had done the preceding day;) and that soon after he passed them he heard a shrieking, like the voice of a woman.

Another woman also deposed, that, after the deceased was missing, she asked Slaughterford what was become of his whore; to which he replied, "I have put her off: do you know of any girl  
" that



“ that has any money your way? I have got the way of putting them off now.”

It was deposed by another woman, that before the discovery of the murder, she said to Mr. Slaughterford, “ What if Jane Young should lay such a child to you as mine is here?” at which he sighed, and said, “ It is now impossible:” and cried till the tears ran down his cheeks

In contradiction to this, the aunt of Mr. Slaughterford, and a young lad who lived in the house, deposed that the prisoner lay at home on the night that the murder was committed.

Slaughterford, from the time of conviction to the very hour of his death, solemnly declared his innocence; and though visited by several divines, who urged him, by all possible arguments, to confess the fact, yet he still persisted that he was not guilty. He was respited from the Wednesday till Saturday, in which interim he desired to see Mr. Woodroff, a minister of Guildford; from which it was thought he would make a confession; but what he said to him tended only to confirm his former declarations.

This unfortunate man was hanged at Guildford on the 9th of July, 1709, and, as soon as the executioner had tied him up, threw himself off, having first delivered to the sheriff a paper containing the following solemn declaration;

*Guildford, July 9, 1709.*

“ Being brought here to die, according to the sentence passed upon me at the Queen’s Bench Bar, for a crime of which I am wholly innocent, I thought myself obliged to let the world know, that they may not reflect on my friends and relations, whom I have left behind me much troubled for my fatal end, that I

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“ know nothing of the death of Mrs. Jane Young,  
 “ nor how she came by her death, directly or in-  
 “ directly, though some have pleased to cast re-  
 “ flections on my aunt. However, I freely for-  
 “ give all my enemies, and pray to God to give  
 “ them a due sense of their errors, and in his  
 “ due time to bring the truth to light. In the  
 “ mean time I beg every one to forbear reflecting  
 “ on my dear mother, or any of my relations,  
 “ for my unjust and unhappy fall, since what I  
 “ have here set down is truth, and nothing but  
 “ the truth, as I expect salvation at the hands of  
 “ Almighty God : but I am heartily sorry that I  
 “ should be the cause of persuading her to leave  
 “ her dame, which is all that troubles me. As  
 “ witness my hand, this 9th day of July.”

Without doubt the case of Slaughterford is of a very extraordinary nature. We see that he surrendered himself to the justices when he might have ran away ; and common sense tells us that a murderer woud endeavour to make his escape ; and we find him a second time surrendering himself, as if anxious to wipe away the stain on his character. We find him tried by a jury of his countrymen, and acquitted ; then again tried, on an appeal, by another jury of his neighbours, found guilty, condemned and executed. Some of the depositions against him seem very striking, and the testimony in his favour is equally clear. There appears nothing in the former part of his life to impeach his character : there is no proof of any animosity between him and the party murdered ; he is visited while under sentence of death, by a number of Divines ; yet he dies with the most sacred averment of his innocence.

It is difficult to judge ! He was evidently convicted on circumstances only, strong as those cir-  
cumstances

cumstances appeared: and there have been many instances of innocent people suffering on circumstantial evidence. Charity, then, will incline one to believe that this man was innocent, and that his life fell a sacrifice to his neighbours' prejudices, perhaps laudable prejudices!

The conduct of the jury that acquitted, or of that which condemned him, is not to be censured. Human testimony is doubtful, and human judges are fallible! But we should be taught one important lesson from the fate of this unhappy man. We should learn to reverence the decrees of that Providence which is above our finite comprehension, and to admire the justice of that God whose "ways are past finding out."

From the picture before us we should learn the certainty of a future state, when all mists shall be cleared from our eyes, and "hidden things shall be made plain!"

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Narrative of the Life, Execution, &c. of GRACE TRIPP, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for the Murder of Lord Torrington's Housekeeper.

GRACE TRIPP was a native of Barton in Lincolnshire, and after living as a servant at a gentleman's house in the country, she came to London, and having been in a reputable family some time, she procured a place in the house of Lord Torrington.

During her stay in this last service she got acquainted with a man named Peters, who persuaded her to be concerned in robbing Lord Torrington's house, promising to marry her as soon as the fact should be perpetrated. Hereupon it

was concerted between them, that she should let Peters into the house in the night, and that they should join in stealing and carrying off the plate.

Peters was accordingly admitted at the appointed time, when all of the family, except the housekeeper, were out of town: but this housekeeper hearing a noise, came into the room just as they had packed up the plate; on which Peters seized her, and cut her throat, while Tripp held the candle. This being done, they searched the pockets of the deceased, in which they found about thirty guineas with which, and the plate, they hastily decamped, leaving the street door open.

This shocking murder and robbery became the general subject of conversation, and no steps were left unattempted in order to apprehend the offenders, and they were taken in a few days, when, Peters was admitted an evidence for the crown, for the sake of public justice.

Tripp, in consequence of his evidence, and many corroborating circumstances, was convicted, sentenced to die, and executed at Tyburn, on the 17th of March, 1710, at the age of 19 years.

While this unfortunate woman lay under sentence of death, she entertained an idea that she ought not to suffer, because she did not actually commit the murder with her own hands, but only stood by while the deed was perpetrated. She confessed that an ambition of being deemed a fine lady prevailed on her to admit Peters into the house, as she thought the stolen effects would produce sufficient to dignify her with that title.

We may draw from the fate of this unhappy, deluded girl, two or three reflections which are not unworthy the notice of the public. In the first place, families that go out of town for the summer should never leave their plate in the care

of one or two servants, particularly of the female sex; for this circumstance is at once an encouragement to robbers, and a temptation to servants themselves to betray their trust.

The admission of Peters an evidence against the girl, though he was clearly an offender of the first magnitude, should teach young people in general the danger of making unlawful connections; and the folly of trusting to the fidelity of a brother thief. In this particular case it was necessary that one of the parties should be an evidence, in order to convict the other; and Peters was undoubtedly pitched upon, to teach servants what an enormous crime it is to betray the trust reposed in them by their masters. We have seldom an instance of a servant convicted of robbing his or her master but they are severely punished; and indeed it is proper that the utmost rigour of the law should overtake such offenders.

This young woman's folly and credulity in listening to the addresses of a man who persuaded her to rob her master, is truly astonishing! From her sad example let all young women be taught, that there is no prospect of that person making a good husband, who is not first of all an HONEST MAN. Let them remember, that "the fear of the Lord  
" is the beginning wisdom."

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Full Account of the Lives, Insurrections, and Execution of DANIEL DAMAREE and GEORGE PURCHASE, who were hanged at *Tyburn* for *Highb Treason*.

**W**HEN the whig ministry of queen Anne were turned out of, or, in the modern phrase, had resigned their places, the tory ministry

nistry who succeeded them encouraged a young divine named Henry Sacheverell to enflame the passions of the public by preaching against the settlement made at the revolution, and inculcating all those doctrines which were then held as the favourite tenets of what was called the high church party. Sacheverell was a man of abilities, and eminently possessed of those kind of talents which are calculated to inspire such sentiments as the preacher wished to impress his auditors with.

The public in general are well informed that Dr. Sacheverell's discourses tended to instigate the people against the house of Hanover, and to insinuate the right of the pretender to the throne of these realms. This caused such a general commotion that it became necessary to bring him to a trial in some way; and, contrary to all former practice respecting a man of his rank, he was tried before the house of peers, and was silenced for three years upon conviction.

But so excited were the passions of the populace in consequence of his insinuations, that they almost adored him as a prophet; and some of them were led to commit those outrages which gave rise to the following trials:

Two dissenting ministers, Messieurs Bradbury and Burgess, having made themselves conspicuous by preaching in behalf of the revolution settlement, and freedom of sentiment in matters of religion, became the immediate objects of the resentment of the mob. What arose in consequence hereof will appear from the following abstract of the trials of the criminals before us:

Daniel Damaree on the 19th of April, 1710, was indicted for being concerned with a multitude of men, to the number of five hundred, armed with swords and clubs, to levy war against the queen.

A gen-

A gentleman deposed, that "going through the Temple, he saw some thousands of people, who had attended Dr. Sacheverell from Westminster-Hall: that some of them said they would pull down Dr. Burgess's meeting-house that night:" Others differed as to the time of doing it, but all agreed on the act, and the meeting-house was demolished on the following night.

Captain Orril swore that on the first of March, hearing that "the mob had pulled down Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, he resolved to go among them, to do what service he could to government, by making discoveries."

Captain Orril going to Mr. Bradbury's meeting, found the people plundering it, who obliged him to pull off his hat. After this he went to Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, where he saw a bonfire made of some of the materials of Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, and saw the prisoner, who twirled his hat, and said "D—n it, I will lead you on; G—d d—n me, we will have all the meeting-houses down; high church and Sacheverell, huzza!"

It was proved by another evidence that the prisoner headed part of the mob, some of whom proposed to go to the meeting-house in Wild-street; but this was objected to by others, who recommended going to Drury-Lane, "saying that meeting-house was worth ten of that in Wild-street."

Joseph Collier swore that he saw the prisoner carry a brass sconce from Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, and throw it into the fire in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, huzzaing, and crying "High church and Sacheverell." There was another evidence to prove the concern that the prisoner had in these illegal acts; and several persons appeared in his behalf; but as in their testimony,  
they

they contradicted each other, the jury could not credit their evidence: but brought in a special verdict.

George Purchase was indicted for levying war against the queen, &c. in the same manner that Damaree had been. On this trial captain Orril deposed, that after seeing Dr. Burgess's meeting-house demolished, and a fire made in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields with some of the materials thereof, he met a party of the guards, whom he directed to go to Drury-Lane, where a bonfire was made of the pews, and other utensils; and that there was a great mob, which was dispersed by the guards: that the prisoner was very active pushing at the breasts of the horses with a drawn sword: that this evidence asked what he meant, telling him that in opposing the guard he opposed the queen, and would have persuaded him to put up his sword, and go home; but instead of taking this advice, he replied, "D—n you, who are you? for High Church and Sacheverell or no? I am, G—d  
"d—n them all," meaning the guards, "for I am as good a man as any of them all:" that he then called to the mob "Come on, come on boys; I'll lead you on, I am for High Church and Sacheverell, and I'll lose my life in the cause."

The Captain farther deposed, that after this the prisoner ran resolutely with his sword in his hand, and made a full pass at the officer who commanded the guards; and if one of the guards had not given a spring and beat down his sword, he would have run the officer through the left flank: that the prisoner now retired a little lower, and the guards had by this time dispersed the mob, having knocked down forty or fifty of them in the action.

Richard



Richard Ruffel, one of the guards, deposed, that they were ordered by the serjeant to march into Drury-Lane, and to return their bayonets and draw their swords: that when they came to Drury-Lane, there was a bonfire with a large mob about it; that near the fire the horse were all drawn up into one line, with their tails against the wall, that none of the mob might come behind: that the prisoner then stood in the middle of the lane, huzzaing, and came up, and would have thrust himself between the horses; but the guards beat him off with the flats of their swords.

The prisoner produced some witnesses; but as what they said did not contradict the testimony of the evidences against him, their depositions had no weight. The jury were satisfied with the proofs that had arisen: but having a doubt respecting the points of law, they brought in a special verdict.

At the same time and place Francis Willis was tried for assisting in demolishing the meeting-house of Mr. Bradbury in Fetter-Lane, and burning the materials at a bonfire in Holborn; but was acquitted for want of sufficient evidence against him.

The verdicts respecting Damaree and Purchase being left special, their cases were argued in the court of King's-Bench in Westminster-Hall, the following term, before the lord chief justice Parker and the other judges; when though every artifice in the law was made use of in their behalf, they were adjudged to be guilty; in consequence of which they received sentence of death, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 15th of June 1710.

From the fate of these unhappy men we may  
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learn the extreme folly of the lower orders of people interesting themselves in religious and political disputes. These offenders were watermen to the queen; but their loyalty to their sovereign and a proper regard to themselves, equally called on them to discharge the duties of their station with punctuality, and to leave the management of the church and state to those to whom they immediately belonged.

It is well known that towards the close of the reign of queen Anne, political disputes were carried to a very unusual height in this kingdom. The body of the people were divided into two great factions, known by the names of High Church and Low Church: but though the church was the word, religion was almost out of the question; and the principle object of dispute was of a political kind. The question was, whether the house of HANOVER, or the family of STUART, should sway the sceptre of these kingdoms. But it is astonishing to think that, even at that period, any son of the church of England could be so deluded as to think that a catholic prince, of an obnoxious family, proscribed by the laws of the land could be a proper sovereign for a protestant people. The supposition carries absurdity in the face of it; yet such was the violence of the passions of the people, that the pretender had nearly half as many friends in the kingdom as the rightful heir to the throne.

With regard to the malefactors in question, their offence was of the most atrocious nature. Every man has an equal right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. It was therefore in a high degree, criminal to demolish

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molish the meeting-houses of the dissenting ministers. We should have no more spleen against a man for differing from us in religious sentiments, than for being taller, or shorter, or of a different complexion from ourselves. It was a wise saying of a celebrated writer, that “I would no more quarrel with a man for his differing in sentiment from me, than I would for the colour of his eye-brows.”

The operations of the mind, being free by nature, ought to be allowed the most unlimited scope. A good Protestant will not quarrel with a Roman Catholic for the peculiarities of his worship: he will only pity him for those parts of it which he thinks absurd, and endeavour to regulate his own worship by what he deems a purer standard.

Upon the whole, the fate of these malefactors ought to teach us obedience to our superiors, love to our neighbours, and duty to our God. There can be no peace of mind expected by those who do not live in the discharge of their duty; while those who perform it may reasonably hope for the serene comforts of a good conscience in this world, and console themselves with the hope of immortal happiness in the next.

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Account of RICHARD THORNHILL, Esq.  
who was tried for the *Murder* of Sir CHOL-  
MONDELEY DEERING in a Duel, and  
found guilty of *Man-slaughter*.

SIR CHOLMONDELEY DEERING and  
Mr. Thornhill were intimate acquaintance,  
and had dined together, on the 7th of April,

1711, in company with several other gentlemen, at the Toy, at Hampton-Court, where a quarrel arose which occasioned the unhappy catastrophe that afterwards happened.

During the quarrel Sir Cholmondeley struck Mr. Thornhill, and a scuffle ensuing, the wainscot of the room broke down, and Thornhill falling, the other stamped on him, and beat out some of his teeth. The company now interposing, Sir Cholmondeley, convinced that he had acted improperly, declared that he was willing to ask pardon; but Mr. Thornhill said that asking pardon was not a proper retaliation for the injury that he had received; adding, "Sir Cholmondeley, you know where to find me." Soon after this the company broke up, and the prisoners went home in different coaches, without any farther steps being taken towards their reconciliation.

On the 9th of April Sir Cholmondeley went to the Coffee-house at Kensington, and asked for Mrs. Thornhill, who on not being there, he went to his lodgings, and the servant shewed him to the dining-room, to which he ascended with a brace of pistols in his hands; and soon afterwards Mr. Thornhill coming to him, asked him if he would drink tea, which he declined, but drank a glass of small beer.

After this the gentlemen ordered a hackney-coach, in which they went to Tothill-Fields, and there advanced towards each other in a resolute manner, and fired their pistols almost in the same moment.

Sir Cholmondeley being mortally wounded, fell to the ground; and Mr. Thornhill, after lamenting the unhappy catastrophe, was going away, when a person stopped him, told him he had been guilty of murder, and took him before a jus-

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a justice of the peace, who committed him to  
prison.

On the 18th of May 1711, Richard Thornhill,  
Esq. was indicted at the Old-Bailey sessions for  
this murder. In the course of the trial the above-  
recited facts were proved, and a letter was pro-  
duced, of which the following is a copy.

S I R,

April 8th, 1711.

“ I shall be able to go abroad to-morrow morn-  
“ ing, and desire you will give me a meeting  
“ with your sword and pistols, which I insist on.  
“ The worthy gentleman who brings you this,  
“ will concert with you the time and place. I  
“ think Tothill-Fields will do well; Hyde-Park  
“ will not, at this time of the year, being full of  
“ company.

I am,

Your humble Servant,

RICHARD THORNHILL.”

Mr. Thornhill's servant swore that he believed  
this letter to be his master's hand-writing; but  
Mr Thornhill hoped the jury would not pay any  
regard to this testimony, as the boy had acknow-  
ledged in court that he never saw him write.

Mr. Thornhill called several witnesses to prove  
how ill he had been used by Sir Cholmondeley:  
that he had languished some time of the wounds  
he had received, during which he could take no  
other sustenance than liquids, and that his life was  
in imminent danger.

Several persons of distinction testified that Mr.  
Thornhill was of a peaceable disposition, and  
that, on the contrary, the deceased was of a re-  
markably quarrelsome temper. On behalf of  
Mr.

Mr. Thornhill it was farther deposed, that Sir Cholmondeley being asked if he came by his hurt through unfair usage, he replied “No: poor  
 “Thornhill! I am sorry for him; this misfortune  
 “was my own fault, and of my own seeking: I  
 “heartily forgive him, and desire you all to take  
 “notice of it; that it may be of some service  
 “to him; and that one misfortune may not occa-  
 “sion another.”

The jury acquitted Mr. Thornhill of the murder, but found him guilty of manslaughter, in consequence of which he was burnt in the hand.

Of all the vices which disgrace our age and nation that of duelling is one of the most ridiculous, absurd and criminal. Ridiculous, as it is a compliance with a custom that would plead fashion in violation of the laws of our country; absurd, as it produces no test by which to determine on the merits of the point in dispute: for the aggrieved is equally liable to fall with the aggressor; and criminal, (criminal indeed in the highest degree!) as it arises from pre-determined murder on each side. Gentlemen talk of the dignity of honour, and the sacredness of character, without reflecting that there can be no honour in deliberate murder, no purity of character in a murderer!

The man who sends a challenge to another, does but say, in other words, “I am a professed  
 “murderer. I mean to send you into the other  
 “world, with all your imperfections on your  
 “head.—But I am a man of honour—though I  
 “will not take a purse, I will cut a throat. I  
 “will do every thing in my power to deprive you  
 “of life, and to make your friends and relations  
 “wretched for life. If I fall by your hands, my  
 “friends will be equally miserable:—but no  
 “matter

“ matter—the laws of honour demand that we  
 “ should be murderers, and we are both too wise  
 “ to obey the laws of our God.”

Horrid practice! disgraceful to our country, and equally contrary to all Divine and human institutions!—It is to be hoped the time will come when the legislature shall decree that every man who is base enough to send a challenge shall be doomed to suffer death as a murderer. Let no fear be entertained that this can derogate from our national character of genuine courage. Nothing is more true than the observation of the poet, that

Cowards are cruel, but the brave  
 Love mercy, and delight to save.

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Account of ELIZABETH MASON, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for *Poisoning her Mistress*.

**E**LIZABETH MASON was born at Melton-Mowbray, in Leicestershire, and while very young, was conveyed by her friends to Sutton, near Peterborough, in Northamptonshire; from whence, at the age of seven years, she was brought to London by Mrs. Scoles, who told her she was her godmother; and with this lady and her sister, Mrs. Cholwell, she lived till she was apprehended for the commission of the crime for which her life paid the forfeit.

This girl, who was employed in household work, having conceived an idea that she should possess the fortune of her mistresses, on their death, came to the horrid resolution of removing them by poison.

On

On Thursday in Easter-week, Mason being sent of an errand, she went to a druggitt's shop, where she bought a quantity of yellow arsenick, on the pretence that it was to kill rats. On the following morning she mixed this poison with some coffee, of which Mrs. Scoles drank, and soon afterwards finding herself extremely ill, said her end was approaching, and expired the next day in great agonies.

Mrs. Cholwell receiving no injury from what little coffee she drank, the girl determined to renew her attempt to poison her; in consequence of which she went again to the same shop about a fortnight afterwards, and bought a second quantity of arsenick, which she put into some water-gruel prepared for Mrs. Cholwell's breakfast on the following morning.

As it happened that the gruel was too hot, the lady put it aside some time to cool, during which time most of the arsenick sunk to the bottom. Having drank some of it, she found herself very ill; and observing the sediment at the bottom of the basin, she sent for her apothecary, who gave her a large quantity of oil to drink, by the help of which the poison was expelled.

Unfavourable suspicions now arising against Elizabeth Mason, she was taken into custody, and being carried before two justices of the peace, on the 30th of April, she confessed the whole of her guilt, in consequence of which she was committed to Newgate.

On the 6th of June 1712, she was indicted for the murder of Jane Scoles, by mixing yellow arsenick with her coffee; and pleading guilty to the indictment, she received sentence of death; in consequence of which she was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of June 1712.

While



While she lay under sentence of death, the ordinary of Newgate asked if she had any lover, or other person, who had tempted her to the commission of the crime: to which she answered in the negative; but owned that she had frequently defrauded her mistresses of money, and then told lies to conceal the depredations of which she had been guilty.

At the time of her execution she warned other young people to beware of crimes similar to those which had brought her to that fatal end, and confessed the justice of the sentence which made her a public example.

Young people should be taught, from the deplorable fate of this unhappy girl, to learn a due obedience to their superiors in general; and particularly to guard against the first impulses of pride, ambition, and avarice: for it was the expectation of possessing the fortune of her mistresses at their death, that tempted this young creature to think of removing them, by the commission of the horrid sin of murder!

In the discovery of this affair the intervention of Providence obviously appears. If the gruel, prepared for Mrs. Cholwell, had not been too hot for use, she would probably have eaten freely of it, and, in consequence, have lost her life.

In the case of this malefactor we see, in a striking light, the fatal consequences of lying; for if, after she had first defrauded her mistresses, she had possessed grace sufficient to have acknowledged her crime, she would probably have been forgiven, and her repentance would have secured her peace of mind during her future life: but the concealing her faults by lying naturally led her to the commission of greater crimes, which

ended in her final destruction. Of all crimes, lying is one of the meanest; and ought to be studiously avoided, by those who wish to be happy in this world or the next. - Very true is the observation of the poet:

But lyars we can never trust,

Tho' they should speak the thing that's true:

And he that does one fault at first,

And lyes to hide it, makes it two.

Account of ELIZABETH CHIVERS, who was hanged for murdering her Bastard Child.

**A**T the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of July, 1712, Elizabeth Chivers was indicted for the wilful murder of her female bastard child, Elizabeth Ward, by drowning it in a pond; and, pleading guilty, she received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the first of August following.

This unhappy woman was a native of Spitalfields, but lived at Stepney at the time of the commission of the murder. The account she gave of herself after she was under sentence of death was as follows; She said, that her father dying, while she was very young, left her in indigent circumstances, which obliged her to go to service when she was only fourteen years of age; that she lived in several reputable families, in which her conduct was deemed irreproachable.

When she arrived at almost the age of thirty years, she lived with one Mr. Ward, an attorney, who prevailed on her to lie with him, in consequence of which she bore the child which she afterwards murdered.

Finding

Finding herself pregnant, she removed from Mr. Ward's to another family, where she remained about six weeks, and then took private lodgings, in which she was delivered of a girl, who was baptised by the name of Elizabeth Ward. The father, agreeable to his promise, provided for the mother and child for about three months, when Mrs. Ward discovering her habitation, exposed her in the neighbourhood, so that she was ashamed to make her appearance.

Enraged by this circumstance, she was tempted to destroy her child: on which she took it into the fields, and threw it into a pond not far from Hackney; but some people near the spot happening to see what passed, took her into custody, and carried her before a magistrate, who committed her to Newgate.

All the time that she remained in this gloomy prison, her mind seemed to be tortured with the most agonizing pains, on account of the horrid crimes of which she had been guilty: and she expressed a sense of her torments in the following striking words, which she spoke to a clergyman who attended her: "Oh, sir! I am lost! I cannot pray, I cannot repent; my sin is too great to be pardoned! I did commit it with deliberation and choice, and in cold blood: I was not driven to it by necessity. The father had all the while provided for me, and for the child, and would have done so still, had not I destroyed the child, and thereby sought my own destruction."

It is very remarkable of this woman, that she was near thirty years of age before she was debauched; and, previous to that time her character was unimpeached.—Hence let young women learn the importance of chastity; and consider

how very little they have to depend on, when the character is once gone. Let men, likewise, be taught to reflect what a horrid crime seduction is; and that when once they tempt a young woman to violate her chastity, they are only leading her to the brink of inevitable destruction.

The terrors of conscience this poor creature underwent appear to have been of the most dreadful kind; and afford us a shocking idea of the consequences resulting from the crime of murder. What a deplorable state must that wretch be in, who despairs to so great a degree as to be unable to repent! May God, in his mercy, grant that none of the readers of this work may ever have occasion to repent of a crime so shocking as murder. Nature revolts at the idea of so enormous an offence; but we know not to what lengths our passions may lead us. Let us, therefore, constantly pray that we may not be "led into temptation;" and, "let him that standeth take heed lest he fall."

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Account of the Trial of Col. JOHN HAMILTON, for the *Murder* of CHARLES Lord MOHUN, and JAMES Duke of HAMILTON and BRANDON.

JOHN HAMILTON, Esq. of St. Martin's in the Fields, was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey on the 11th of September, 1712; for the murder of Charles Lord Mohun, Baron of Oakhampton; on the 15th of November preceding: and at the same time he was indicted for abetting Charles Lord Mohun, and George Macartney, Esq. in the murder of James Duke of Hamilton,

Hamilton and Brandon: and having pleaded “not guilty” to these indictments, the evidences proceeded to give their testimony in substance as follows:

Rice Williams, footman to Lord Mohun, proved that his master having met the duke of Hamilton at the chambers of a master in chancery, on Thursday the 13th of November, a misunderstanding arose between them respecting the testimony of an evidence. That when his lord came home at night, he ordered that no person should be admitted to speak with him the next morning except Mr. Macartney: That on the Saturday morning about seven o’clock this evidence, having some suspicion that mischief would ensue, went towards Hyde-Park, and seeing the duke of Hamilton’s coach going that way, he got over the park-wall; but just as he arrived at the place where the duelists were engaged, he saw both the noblemen fall, and two gentlemen near them, whom he took to be the seconds. One of whom he knew to be Mr. Macartney, and the other (but he could not swear it was the prisoner) said “We have made a fine piece of work of it.”

The waiters at two different taverns proved that the deceased noblemen and their seconds had been at those taverns: and, from what could be collected from their behaviour, it appeared that a quarrel had taken place, and that a duel was in agitation: and some of the duke’s servants and other witnesses deposed to a variety of particulars, all which tended to the same conclusion.

But the evidence who saw most of the transaction was William Morris, a groom, who deposed that “as he was walking his horses towards Hyde-Park, he followed a hackney coach with two gentlemen in it; whom he saw alight by  
the

“ the lodge, and walk together towards the left  
 “ part of the ring, where they were about a  
 “ quarter of an hour, when he saw two other  
 “ gentlemen come to them; that after having  
 “ saluted each other; one of them, who he is  
 “ since told was the duke of Hamilton, threw off  
 “ his cloak, and one of the other two, who he  
 “ now understands was lord Mohun, his furtout  
 “ coat, and all immediately drew; that the duke  
 “ and lord pushed at each other but a very little  
 “ while, when the duke closed, and took the  
 “ lord by the collar, who fell down and groaned;  
 “ and the duke fell upon him: that just as lord  
 “ Mohun was dropping, he saw him lay hold of  
 “ the duke’s sword, but could not tell whether  
 “ the sword was at that time in his body; nor  
 “ did he see any wound given after the closing,  
 “ and was sure lord Mohun did not shorten his  
 “ sword. He declared he did not see the seconds  
 “ fight, but they had their swords in their hands,  
 “ assisting the lords.”

Paul Bouffier, a surgeon, swore that on opening the body of the duke of Hamilton he found a wound between the second and third rib, which entered into the body, inclining to the right side, which could not be given but by some push from above.

Henry Amy, a surgeon, swore that he found the duke of Hamilton had received a wound by a push, which had cut the artery and small tendon of his right arm; another very large one in his right leg, a small one in his left leg, near the instep; and a fourth in his left side, between the second and third ribs, which ran down into his body most forward, having pierced the skirt of his midriff, and gone through his caul; but that the wound in his arm caused his so speedy death;

and

and that he might have lived two or three days with the wound in his breast, which wound could not be given but by an arm that reached over, or was above him.

He further deposed, that he also viewed the lord Mohun's body, and found that he had a wound between the short ribs, quite through his belly, and another about three inches deep in the upper part of his thigh; a large wound about four inches wide in his groin, a little higher, which was the cause of his immediate death; and another small wound on his left side, and that the fingers of his left hand were cut.

The defence made by the prisoner was, that "the duke called him to go abroad with him, but he knew not any thing of the matter till he came into the field."

Some Scottish noblemen, and other gentlemen of rank, gave Mr. Hamilton a very advantageous character, asserting that he was brave, honest, and inoffensive: and the jury having considered of the affair, gave a verdict of "manslaughter," in consequence of which the prisoner prayed the benefit of the statute, which was allowed him.

At the time the lives of the above-mentioned noblemen were thus unfortunately sacrificed, many persons thought they fell by the hands of the seconds: and some late writers on the subject have affected to be of the same opinion: but nothing appears in the written or printed accounts of the transaction, nor did any thing arise on the trial, to warrant so ungenerous a suspicion; it is therefore but justice to the memory of all the parties to discredit such insinuations.

But here a reflection will naturally arise, that we hope may be of service to our readers of superior rank. If all duellists are, as common sense seems

seems to intimate, MURDERERS, in what light are we to consider their seconds? Certainly in no other than as accessaries before the fact. The law says, and with great justice, that accessaries in case of murder shall be deemed principals.

With regard to the particular case in question, if we believe the plea of the prisoner, we cannot consider him as an accessary, because he was ignorant of the intention of the duke:

Be this as it may, it is much to be lamented that we have not laws of force sufficient to put an effectual stop to the horrid practice of duelling: a practice which had its rise in the ferocious manners of the most barbarous ages, and is a disgrace to any people who pretends to be polished or refined. Honour is made the vile pretence, and murder, real or intended, is always the consequence.

Men ought to consider that their great Creator has entrusted them with life for more valuable purposes than to put it to the hazard on every frivolous occasion. One would imagine that the reflection of a moment would teach any man in his senses that the determination to rush into the presence of his maker with the crime of murder on his head was sufficient to ensure his perdition!

Happy are those who have been thus tempted to embroe their hands in the blood of their fellow creatures, if they escape the murdering sword or pistol, and have time allotted them to repent of their misdeeds; and surely a whole life of penitence is short enough to atone for the intentional murder of a fellow-creature!

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Account



Account of WILLIAM JOHNSON, and JANE HOUSDEN, who were hanged for the *Murder* of the Turnkey of, Newgate.

WE insert this narrative on account of its singularity, as it may not happen that another case of the kind shall ever occur.

William Johnson was a native of Northamptonshire, where he served his time to a butcher, and removing to London opened a shop in Newport-Market; but business not succeeding to his expectation, he took a house in Long Acre, and commenced corn-chandler; but in this business he was likewise unsuccessful, on which he sold his stock in trade, and took a public house near Christ-Church in Surry.

In the business of a victualler, he was as unsuccessful as in his former professions; on which he failed to Gibraltar, where he was appointed a mate to one of the surgeons of the garrison: so that he appears to have possessed a genius turned to a variety of employments.

Having saved some money at Gibraltar, he came back to his native country, where he soon spent it, and then had recourse to the highway for a supply. Being apprehended in consequence of one of his robberies, he was convicted, but received a pardon; not long before the perpetration of the murder which cost him his life,

Johnson had been formerly acquainted with one Jane Housden, who had been tried and convicted of coining, but obtained a pardon. It was not long after this pardon (which was procured by great influence,) before Housden was again in custody for a similar offence. On the

day that she was to be tried, and just as she was brought down to the bar of the Old-Bailey, Johnson called to see her: but Mr. Spurling, the head turnkey, telling him that he could not see her till her trial was ended, he instantly drew a pistol, and shot Spurling dead on the spot, in the presence of the court, and all the persons attending to hear the trials; Mrs. Housden, at the same time encouraging him in the perpetration of this horrid murder.

The event had no sooner happened, than the judges, thinking it unnecessary to proceed on the trial of the woman for coining, ordered both the parties to be tried for the murder; and there being such a number of witnesses to the deed, they were almost immediately convicted, and received sentence of death.

From this time to that of their execution, and even at the place of their death, they behaved as if they were wholly insensible of the enormity of the crime which they had committed; nay, though there were so many witnesses to the fact, they had the confidence to deny it to the last moment of their lives; nor did they shew any signs of compunction for their former sins.

On the 19th of September, 1712, they were executed opposite the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, after which Johnson was hanged in chains near Holloway, between Islington and Highgate.

There is something so extraordinary in the case of these malefactors that one is almost at a loss what judgment to form of the enormity of their guilt. Johnson had been capitally convicted, and received a free pardon: and Housden had experienced a like effect of the royal mercy. What then shall we think of the man committing a daring murder in such a place, and on so solemn

an occasion, and of the woman, in circumstances so calamitous as hers, encouraging him in the perpetration of so horrid a crime? A crime, that the slightest reflection would have told them must necessarily be punished in an exemplary manner. To escape was impossible:—to commit the crime then, argued a folly as well as baseness that is, perhaps, without example.

The turnkey was doing no more than discharging the duties of his office, and had not given the least provocation to the parties for the horrid murder that ensued.

Their behaviour under sentence of death evinces to what a shocking degree their minds must have been hardened; and, upon the whole, the instance before us affords a proof that the human heart is “corrupt above all things, and desperately wicked.”

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Account of RICHARD TOWN, who was Executed for *Defrauding his Creditors* under a Commission of *Bankruptcy*.

IN September, 1712, Richard Town was indicted at the Old Bailey for withdrawing himself from his creditors after a commission of bankrupt issued against him, and for removing and fraudulently carrying away fifteen tons of tallow, valued at 400l. and 400l. in money, with his debt-books, and books of accounts, with intention to defraud his creditors.

Having pleaded not guilty to the indictment the council informed the jury that the act of parliament had expressly declared that “if any person, being a bankrupt, after the month of

“ April, 1707, did fraudulently conceal, em-  
 “ bezzle, or make away with goods or money to  
 “ the value of 20l. he should be deemed guilty of  
 “ felony.”

A number of witnesses were now called to prove his being a regular trader, and to make it appear that he had committed an act of bankruptcy; but the principal of these was Mr. Hodgson, who deposed that being sent after the prisoner by the commissioners of bankrupt, he apprehended him at Sandwich, and searching him by virtue of his warrant, found in his pocket twenty guineas in gold, and about five pound seven shillings and sixpence in silver; and that he had three gold rings on his fingers: that he took from him the gold, and five pounds in silver, and left him the odd silver.

Town had intended to sail in a ship which was bound to Amsterdam; but being too late he went on board a packet-boat bound to Ostend, but being taken sea-sick, he went to the side of the vessel, and stooping down, dropped eight hundred guineas, which were in two bags between his coat and waistcoat, into the sea.

A storm arising at sea, the packet-boat was driven back, and obliged to put into Sandwich, in consequence of which Town was apprehended by Hodgson, as above mentioned.

When Town was examined before the commissioners he acknowledged that he had ordered Thomas Norris to carry off his books of accounts, plate, and papers of value, and likewise to convey away a large quantity of tallow, which he supposed was then arrived in Holland,

Now the council for Town insisted that, as Norris was a joint agent with him, the act of one was the act of both; and that he could not legally be  
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convicted till the other (who was then abroad) could be apprehended, and tried with him. But in order to frustrate this argument, it was proved that Town had shipped off large quantities of goods on his own account: besides, the circumstance of his being taken at Sandwich by Mr. Hodgson, with more than twenty pounds of his creditors money in his possession, was a sufficient proof of his guilt; wherefore the jury did not hesitate on his case, and he received sentence of death.

This unhappy man was a native of the county of Oxford, and for some time had carried on a considerable business as a tallow chandler with great reputation; but it appears too evident that he had formed a design of defrauding his creditors; because, at the time of his absconding, he had considerable property in the funds, and was otherwise in good circumstances.

Before his conviction he was indulged with a chamber to himself in the press-yard: but after sentence was passed on him he was put into the condemned hole, with the other prisoners: but here he caught a violent cold, which brought on a deafness, a disorder to which he had been subject; wherefore, on complaining of this circumstance, he was removed to his former apartments.

While under sentence of death he refused to acknowledge the justice of his sentence, declaring that a person whom he had relieved, and preserved from ruin, had occasioned his destruction. He attended the devotions of the place, declared that he forgave his enemies, and begged that God would likewise forgive them.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 23rd of December, 1712, being exactly forty-one years  
of

of age on that day: a circumstance that he remarked to the Ordinary, on his way to the fatal tree,

Mr. Town was the first person who suffered on the act which made it felony for a bankrupt to conceal the value of 20l. or upwards. It is the fate of many an honest man to become a bankrupt, and it is but too common for the unfeeling world to brand all bankrupts with the general name of villain: but, we hope, for the honour of human nature, that this name is not deserved once where it is applied a thousand times.

It has been the misfortune of some of the worthiest men we have ever known to become bankrupts. On the contrary, many of the most contemptible of the human race have been successful traders, and, in the language of the city, have been "good men." Undoubtedly there have been fraudulent bankruptcies; but, comparatively speaking, we believe very few. We have not many instances of traders flourishing in a great degree, after a bankruptcy: and what man would wish, if it were in his power, to meet the public contempt and derision, for the sake of embezzling a few paltry hundred pounds, and this too, at the hazard of his life?

With regard to the particular instance before us, we see a strong proof of the wisdom and justice of Providence, in preventing this offender from making his escape; in the first place, by the ship being sailed, and in the second, by the packet boat being obliged to put back, through stress of weather.

Hence let all who are tempted to commit crimes of a similar, or of any other nature, learn that they can never escape the sight of a just God, who ruleth the world in righteousness.

Account

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Account of RICHARD NOBLE, Attorney at Law, who Suffered for the Murder of JOHN SAYER, Esq. With some Particulars of the Amours of Mr. NOBLE, and Mrs. SAYER.

THERE is something so singular in the case before us, that the reader will be glad to have the particulars of an affair that made much noise in the world at the time it happened, and will be remembered to future ages.

John Sayer, Esq. was possessed of about 1000*l.* a year, and was lord of the Manor of Biddleſden, in Buckinghamſhire. He does not appear to have been a man of any great abilities; but was remarkable for his good nature and inoffensive diſpoſition.

In 1699 he married Mary, the daughter of Admiral Nevil, a woman of an agreeable perſon and brilliant wit; but of ſuch an abandoned diſpoſition as to be a diſgrace to her ſex. Soon after this wedding, Colonel Salisbury married the admiral's widow; but there was ſuch a vicious ſimilarity in the conduct of the mother and daughter, that the two huſbands had early occaſion to be diſguſted with the choice they had made.

Mr. Sayer's nuptials had not been celebrated many days before the bride took the liberty of kicking him, and hinted that ſhe would procure a lover, with whom ſhe might enjoy thoſe pleaſures not to be found with her huſband. Sayer, who was diſtractedly fond of her, bore this treatment with patience; and at the end of a twelve-month ſhe bare him a daughter, which ſoon died: but he became ſtill more fond of her after ſhe had  
made

made him a father, and was continually loading her with presents.

Mr. Sayer now took a house in Lisle-street, Leicester-fields, kept a coach; and did every thing which he thought might gratify his wife: but to far from being influenced by this generous conduct, she declared that she would never again admit him to her bed. Irritated by this treatment he went among the women of the town, in consequence whereof he contracted a disorder that obliged him to have the advice of a surgeon: and his wife-suspecting what had happened, he made no scruple to acknowledge the fact, and avow the occasion of it.

His health, however, was soon re-established; on which his wife voluntarily admitted him to her bed: but the consequence was, that both the parties were soon afterwards indisposed. As the surgeon who had attended Mr. Sayer was a man of character, and professed himself ready to swear to the perfection of his cure, it was shrewdly suspected that the lady, having contracted the disorder, had given it to her husband, in order to criminate him in the opinion of his friends.

However this be, she affected to be greatly disgusted, again forbid him her bed, and consoled herself with the company of a colonel in the army. At times she behaved with more complaisance to her husband, who had, after a while, the honour of being deemed father of another child of which she was delivered; and after this circumstance she indulged herself in still greater liberties than before; her mother, who was almost constantly with her, encouraging her in this shameful prostitution of manners.

At length a scheme was concerted; which would probably have ended in the destruction of  
Mr.



Mr. Sayer and Colonel Salisbury, if it had not been happily prevented by the prudence of the latter. The colonel taking an opportunity to represent to Mrs. Sayer the ill consequences that must attend her infidelity to her husband, she immediately attacked him with the most outrageous language, and insulted him to that degree that he threw the remains of a dish of tea at her. The mother and daughter immediately laid hold of this circumstance to inflame the passions of Mr. Sayer, whom they at length prevailed on to demand satisfaction of the colonel.

The challenge is said to have been written by Mrs. Sayer, and when the colonel received it, he conjectured that it was a plan concerted between the ladies to get rid of their husbands. However, he obeyed the summons, and going in a coach with Mr. Sayer towards Montague-House, he addressed him as follows: “ Son Sayer, let us come  
 “ to a right understanding of this business. ’Tis  
 “ very well known that I am a swordsman, and I  
 “ should be very far from getting any honour by  
 “ killing you. But to come nearer to the point in  
 “ hand. Thou shouldst know Jack, for all the  
 “ world knows, that thy wife and nine are both  
 “ whores. They want to get rid of us at once.  
 “ If thou shouldst drop, they’ll have me hanged  
 “ for it after.” There was so much of obvious truth in this remark, that Mr. Sayer immediately felt its force, and the gentlemen drove home together, to the great mortification of the ladies.

Soon after this affair Mrs. Sayer went to her house in Buckinghamshire, where an intimacy took place between her and the curate of the parish, and their amour was conducted with so little

reserve, that all the servants saw that the parson had more influence in the house than their master.

Mrs. Sayer coming to London, was soon followed by the young clergyman, who was seized with the small-pox, which cost him his life. When he found that there was no hope of his recovery, he sent to Mr. Sayer, earnestly requesting to see him: but Mrs. Sayer, who judged what he wanted, said that her mother had not had the small-pox, and such a visit might cost her her life; wherefore she insisted that her husband should not go; and the passive man tamely submitted to this injunction, though his wife daily sent a footman to enquire after the clergyman, who died without being visited by Mr. Sayer.

This gentleman had not been long dead before his place was supplied by an officer of the guards; but he was soon dismissed in favour of a man of great distinction, who presented her with some valuable china, which she pretended was won at Astrop-Wells.

About this time Mr. Sayer found his affairs considerably deranged by his wife's extravagance; on which a gentleman recommended to him Mr. Richard Noble, an attorney, as a man capable of being very serviceable to him.

Noble was the son of a man who kept a very reputable coffee house at Bath. His parents lived in great credit, and his mother was so virtuous a woman, that when Noble afterwards went to her house with Mrs. Sayer, in a coach and six, she shut the door against him. Noble had been well educated, and articled to an attorney of eminence in New Inn, in which he afterwards took chambers for himself; but he had not been in any  
con-

considerable degree of practice when he was introduced to Mr. Sayer.

Noble had not been long acquainted with the family before he became too intimate with Mrs. Sayer, and, if report said true, with her mother likewise. However, these two abandoned women had other matters in prospect besides mere gallantry, and considering Noble as a man of business as well as a lover, they concerted a scheme to deprive Mr. Sayer of a considerable part of his estate.

The unhappy gentleman, being perpetually teased by the women, at length consented to execute a deed of separation, in which he assigned some lands in Buckinghamshire, to the amount of 150*l.* a year, to his wife, exclusive of 50*l.* a year for pin-money; and by this deed he likewise covenanted that Mrs. Sayer might live with whom she pleased, and that he would never molest any person on account of harbouring her. Mr. Sayer was even so weak as to sign this deed without having a council of his own to examine it.

Not long after this Mrs. Sayer was delivered of a child at Bath: but that the husband might not take alarm at this circumstance, Noble sent him a letter, acquainting him that he was to be pricked down for high sheriff of Buckinghamshire; and Mrs. Salisbury urged him to go to Holland to be out of the way, and supplied him with some money on the occasion.

It does not seem probable that Sayer had any suspicion of Noble's criminal intercourse with his wife, for the night before he set out he presented him with a pair of saddle-pistols and furniture worth above 40*l.*

Soon after he was gone Mrs. Sayer's maid speaking of the danger her master might be in at

sea, the abandoned woman said " She should be  
 " sorry his man James, a poor innocent fellow,  
 " should come to any harm ; but she should be  
 " glad, and earnestly wished that Mr. Sayer might  
 " sink to the bottom of the sea, and that the bot-  
 " tom of the ship might come out."

Not long after Mr. Sayer was gone abroad, Noble began to give himself airs of greater consequence than he had hitherto done. He was solicitor in a cause in the court of chancery, in which Mr. Sayer was plaintiff, and having obtained a decree, he obliged the trustees nominated in the marriage articles to relinquish, and assumed the authority of a sole trustee.

Mr. Sayer remained in Holland near a year, during which Noble publicly cohabited with his wife ; and when her husband returned she refused to live with him ; but having first robbed him of above 2000*l.* in exchequer bills and other effects, she went to private lodgings with Noble, soon after which she was delivered of another child. After Mrs. Sayer had thus eloped from her husband, he caused an advertisement to be inserted in the news-papers, of which the following is a copy :

" Whereas Mary, the wife of John Sayer, Esq.  
 " late of Lisle-street, St. Anns, went away from  
 " her dwelling-house on or about the 23rd of May  
 " last, in company with Elizabeth Nevil, sister to  
 " the said Mary, and hath carried away near 1000*l.*  
 " in money, besides other things of a considerable  
 " value, and is supposed to go by some other  
 " name : he desires all tradesmen and others not  
 " to give her any credit, for that he will not pay  
 " the same."

While Mrs. Sayer cohabited with Noble he was constantly supplied with money, but he was  
 not

not her only associate at that time; for, during his occasional absence, she gratified herself with the company of other lovers.

Noble now procured an order from the court of chancery to take Mr. Sayer in execution for 400*l.* at the suit of Mrs. Salisbury, the consequence of a judgment confessed by him, for form's sake, to protect his goods from his creditors while he was in Holland. Mr. Sayer declared that the real debt was not more than 70*l.* though artful management and legal expences had swelled it to the the above-mentioned sum.

Hereupon Sayer took refuge within the rules of the Fleet Prison, and exhibited his bill in chancery for relief against these suits, and the deed of separation, which he obtained; but before he had an opportunity of suing out judgment against Noble, the vengeance of heaven overtook that abandoned villain.

Mrs. Sayer finding herself liable to be exposed by the advertisement her husband had caused to be inserted in the news-papers, she, with her mother, and Noble, took lodgings in the Mint, Southwark, which was at that time a place of refuge for great numbers of persons of desperate circumstances and abandoned dispositions.

Mr. Sayer was now informed that his wife had taken lodgings in the Mint, on which he wrote several letters to her, promising that he would forgive all her crimes, if she would return to her duty: but she treated his letters with as much contempt as she had done his person.

Hereupon he determined to seize on her by force, presuming that he should recover some of his effects if he could get her into his custody. He therefore obtained the warrant of a justice of the peace, and taking with him two constables,  
and

and six assistants, went to the house of George Twyford in the Mint; the constables intimating that they had a warrant to search for a suspected person; for if it had been thought that they were bailiffs, their lives would have been in danger.

Having entered the house, they went to a back room, where Noble, Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs. Salisbury were at dinner; but the door was no sooner opened than Noble drew his sword, and stabbing Sayer in the left breast, he died on the spot. The constables immediately apprehended the murderer and the two women; but the latter were so abandoned, that while the peace-officers were conveying them to the house of a magistrate, they did little else than lament the fate of Noble.

As it appeared as if the mob would rise, from an apprehension that the prisoners were debtors, a constable was directed to carry the bloody sword before them, in testimony that murder had been committed; which produced the wished for effect by keeping perfect peace.

The prisoners begged to send for council; which being granted, Noble was committed for trial, after an examination of two hours; but the council urged so many arguments in favour of the women, that it was ten o'clock at night before they were committed. Soon afterwards this unworthy mother and daughter applied to the court of King's-Bench, to be admitted to bail; but this favour was refused them.

The coroner's inquest having viewed Mr. Sayer's body, it was removed to his lodgings within the rules of the Fleet in order for interment; and three days afterwards they gave a verdict, finding Noble guilty of wilful murder, and the women of having aided and assisted him in that murder.

On

On the evening of the 12th of March 1713, they were put to the bar at Kingston, in Surry, and having been arraigned on the several indictments, and pleaded not guilty, were told to prepare for their trials by six o'clock on the following morning.

Being brought down for trial at the appointed time, they moved the court that their trials might be deferred till the afternoon, on the plea that some material witnesses were absent: but the court not believing their allegations, refused to comply with their request. It was imagined that this motion to put off their trials was founded in the expectation that when the business at the nisi prius bar was dispatched, many of the jurymen might go home, so that when the prisoners had made their challenges, there might not be a number left sufficient to try them, by which they might escape till the next assizes, by which time they hoped some circumstances would happen in their favour.

The trials being ordered to come on, Mr. Noble and Mrs. Salisbury each challenged twenty of the jury, and Mrs. Sayer challenged thirty-five\*, so that it was owing to the great number of jurors summoned by the sheriff, that the ends of public justice were not, for the present, defeated.

It will be unnecessary to recite the particulars of the evidence given on the trial, because those who have read the preceding narrative must be well apprized of its nature. Suffice it to say that the

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\* All persons indicted for felony have a right to challenge twenty jurors, and those indicted for petit-treason thirty-five. This may be done without alledging any cause.

the crime of the murder was clearly proved against Noble: however his council urged that some of the persons who broke into the house might have murdered Mr. Sayer, or, if they had not, the provocation he had received might be such as would warrant the jury in bringing him in guilty of manslaughter only.

As the court had sat from six o'clock in the morning, till one o'clock the next morning, the jury were indulged with some refreshment before they left the bar; and after being out nine hours, they gave their verdict that Mr. Noble was "Guilty," and Mrs. Salisbury and Mrs. Sayer were "Not guilty."

When Mr. Noble was brought to the bar to receive sentence, he made a speech, of which the following is a copy :

My Lord,

" I am soon to appear and render an account of my sins to God Almighty. If your lordship should think me guilty of those crimes I have been accused with, and convicted of by my jury, I am then sure your lordship will think that I stand in need of such a reparation, such a humiliation for my great offences, such an abhorrence of my past life, to give me hopes of a future one, that I am not without hopes that it will be a motive to your lordship's goodness, that after you have judged and sentenced my body to execution, you will charitably assist me with a little time for the preservation of my soul.

If I had nothing to answer for but killing Mr. Sayer with precedent malice, I should have no need to address myself to your lordship in this manner. It is now too late to take advantage by denying it to your lordship, and too near my end

to



to dissemble it before God. I know my lord the danger, the hell that I should plunge myself headlong into; I know I shall soon answer for the truth I am now about to say, before a higher tribunal, and a more discerning judge than your lordship, which is only in heaven; that I did not take the advantage to kill Mr. Sayer, by a thought or apprehension that I could do it under the umbrage of the laws, or with impunity, and nothing was more distant from my thoughts, than to remove him out of the world to enjoy his wife (as was suggested) without molestation. Nor could any one have greater reluctance or remorse, from the time of the fact to the hour of my trial, than I have had, though the prosecutors reported to the contrary, for which I heartily forgive them.

“ My council obliged me to say on my trial, that I heard Mr. Sayer’s voice before he broke open the door; I told them, as I now tell your lordship, that I did not know it was him, till he was breaking in at the door, and then, and not before, was my sword drawn, and the wound given, which wound, as Dr. Garth informed me, was so very slight, that it was a thousand to one that he died of it.

“ When I gave the wound, I insensibly quitted the sword, by which means I left myself open for him to have done what was proved he attempted, and was so likely for him to have effected, viz. to have stabbed me: which are circumstances that manifest the greatness of my surprise.

“ When I heard the company run up stairs, I was alarmed, and in fear; the landlord telling me instantly thereupon, that the house was beset, either for me or himself, added to my confusion.

I then never thought or intended to do mischief, but first bolted the fore door, and then bolted and padlocked the back door, which was glazed, and began to fasten the shutters belonging to it, designing only to screen myself from the violence of the tumult. When he broke open the door, and not till then, I perceived and knew he was present: and his former threats and attempts, which I so fully proved on my trial, and could have proved much fuller, had not Mrs. Salisbury's evidence been taken from me, made my fear so great, and the apprehension of my danger so near, than what I did was the natural motion of self-defence, and was too sudden to be the result of precedent malice; and I solemnly declare, that I did not hear or know from Twyford the landlord or otherwise, that any constable attended the deceased, till after the misfortune happened. It was my misfortune, that what I said as to hearing the deceased's voice was turned to my disadvantage by the council against me, and that I was not intitled to any assistance of council to enforce the evidence given for me, or to remark upon the evidence given against me; which I don't doubt would have fully satisfied your lordship and the jury, that what happened was more my misfortune, than my design or intention.

“ If I had been able, under the concern, to remark upon the evidence against me, that Mr. Sayer was but the tenth part of a minute in breaking open the door, it could not then well be supposed by the jury, that I was preparing myself, or putting myself in order to do mischief, which are acts of fore-thought and consideration, which require much more time than is pretended I could have had from the time I discovered Mr. Sayer; for even from his entry into the house, to  
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the time of the accident, did not amount, as I am informed, to more than the space of three minutes. But I did not discover him before the door gave way.

“ I wish it had been my good fortune, that the jury had applied that to me which your lordship remarked in favour of the ladies, that the matter was so very sudden, so very accidental and unexpected, that it was impossible to be a contrivance and confederacy, and unlikely that they could come to a resolution in so short a time. I don't remember your lordship distinguished my case, as to that particular, to be different from theirs, nor was there room for it; for it is impossible for your lordship to believe that I dreamt of Mr. Sayer's coming there at that time, but on the contrary I fully proved to your lordship, that I went there upon another occasion, that was lawful and beneficial to the deceased; and I had no more time to think or contrive, than the ladies had to agree or consent. If any thing could be construed favourably on the behalf of such an unfortunate wretch as myself, I think the design I had sometime before began, and was about finishing that day, might have taken away all suspicion of malice against Mr. Sayer.

“ Must it be thought, my lord, that I only am such a sinner that I cannot repent and make reparations to the persons I have injured? It was denied; but I strongly solicited a reconciliation between Mr. Sayer and his lady, and if this had tended to procure me an easier access to Mrs. Sayer, it would have been such a matter of aggravation to me, that it could not have escaped the remark of the council against me, nor the sharpness of the prosecutors present in court; with both I transacted, and to both I appealed, particular-

ly to Mr. Nott, to whom, but the day before the accident, I manifested my desire of having them live together again, and therefore, my lord, it should be presumed I laboured to be reconciled to, and not to revenge myself on, Mr. Sayer.

“ Your lordship, I hope, will observe so much in my favour, that it was so far from being a clear fact in the opinion of the jury, that they sat up all night, and believing there was no malice at that time, told your lordship they intended, and were inclined to find it manslaughter, and, doubting the legality of the warrant, to find it special.

“ I hope this will touch your lordship’s heart so far, as not to think me so ill a man as to deserve (what the best of Christians are taught to pray against) a sudden death.

“ I confess I am unprepared; the hopes of my being able to make a legal defence, and my endeavours therein having taken up my time, which I wish I had better employed: I beg leave to assure your lordship, upon the words of a dying man, that as none of the indirect practices to get or suppress evidence were proved upon me, so they never sprang from me: and I can safely say, that my blood in a great measure will lie at their door that did, because it drew me under an ill imputation of defending myself by subornation of perjury.

“ I would be willing to do my duty towards my neighbour, as well as God, before I die; I have many papers and concerns (by reason of my profession) of my clients in my hands, and who will suffer if they are not put into some order: and nothing but these two considerations could make life desirable, under this heavy load of irons, and restless remorse of conscience for my sins. A short reprieve for these purposes I hope will be agree-

agreeable to your lordship's humanity and Christian virtue, whereupon your lordship's name shall be blest with my last breath, for giving me an opportunity of making peace with my conscience and God Almighty."

The last request that Noble made was granted. He was allowed some time to settle his spiritual and temporal concerns, and at length was executed at Kingston on the 28th of March, 1713, exhibiting marks of genuine repentance.

With regard to the women, they were no sooner acquitted than they set out for London, taking one of the turnkeys with them, to protect them from the assaults of the populace, who were incensed in the highest degree at the singular enormity of their crimes.

Little need be added, by way of reflection, to this long and interesting narrative. Those who do not see and abhor the extreme wickedness of these abandoned women; are not likely to be influenced by any arguments we can use. The situation of Mr. Sayer is pitiable in a high degree. He was distractedly fond of a woman who despised him; who despised every thing that bore but the semblance of virtue.

The fate of Noble was no other than what he merited by a long and obstinate perseverance in a course of vice and ingratitude: his baseness is almost unexampled. We hope the force of the following advice of the wise king Solomon will be felt by all our readers. "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it; turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to FALL."

Account

Account of WILLIAM LOWTHER, and RICHARD KEELE, who were convicted of Murder, and hanged at Clerkenwell Green:

**W**ILLIAM LOWTHER, was a native of Cumberland, and being bound to the master of a Newcastle ship which traded to London, became acquainted with some of that low and abandoned company which is always to be found in the metropolis.

Richard Keele was a native of Hampshire, and served his time to a barber in Winchester; and on coming to London, he married and settled in his own business in Rotherhithe; but not living happily with his wife, he parted from her, cohabited with another woman, and associated with a number of disorderly people, till the commission of the crime for which his life paid the forfeit.

On the 10th of December, 1713, they were indicted at the Old Bailey, for assisting Charles Houghton in the murder of Edward Perry.

The case was as follows. Houghton, one Cullum, and the Prisoners, having been convicted of felony at the Old Bailey, were sentenced to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell Bridewell for two years. On their being carried thither, Mr. Boreman, the keeper, thought it necessary to put them in irons, to prevent their escape. This they all refused to submit to, and Boreman having ordered the irons, they broke into the room where the arms were deposited, which they seized, and then attacked the keeper and his assistants, whom they cruelly beat. Lowther bit off part of a man's nose. At this time Perry was without the gate, and desired the prisoners to be peaceable; but advancing towards them he was stab-  
bed

bed by Houghton, and during the affray Houghton was shot dead.

The prisoners being at length victorious, many of them made their escape; but the neighbours giving their assistance, Keele and Lowther (and several others) were taken, and were convicted on the clearest evidence. Before the passing sentence, Keele endeavoured to extenuate his crime; but he was informed by the court that he must be deemed equally guilty with the rest of his companions, as he had opposed the keepers in the execution of their duty.

Some time after conviction a smith went to the prison to take measure of them for chains in which they were to be hung, pursuant to an order from the secretary of state's office; but they refused to let him do his duty.

On the morning of execution, being the 13th of December, 1713, they were carried from Newgate to Clerkenwell Green, and there hanged on a gallows erected on the occasion; after which their bodies were put into a cart, drawn by four horses, decorated with plumes of black feathers; and were hung in chains on the day after their execution.

While these unhappy men lay under sentence of death, they appeared to have a due sense of the enormity of the crime of which they had been guilty, and made serious preparation for the important change they were to undergo: but at the place of execution Keele asked the undersheriff if they were to be hung in chains; when the answer given was, "Don't concern yourself about your body, but take care of your poor soul."

It is very remarkable that many unhappy convicts have been more anxious that their bodies should

should not hang in chains, than even for the preservation of life itself: such is the sense of shame which prevails in the minds of those whose crimes have been so atrocious, that one would conjecture they had been hardened beyond all idea of shame. What is the inference to be drawn from this fact? It seems evident that such is the corruption of the human heart, that men will commit those crimes without blushing, the slightest punishment of which they cannot bear the idea of: for surely the hanging in chains, after death, can scarcely be deemed a punishment. In fact, it is not intended as a punishment to the deceased; but a terror to the living: and it is a circumstance of the utmost disgrace, and the most mortifying to the human feelings, to be hung up between heaven and earth, as if unworthy of either; the sport of the winds, a prey for the birds of the air, and an object of pity, scorn and derision to their fellow creatures.

There is no saying to what lengths any man may proceed who once departs from the path of integrity. Many a person has been executed for murder, whose first crimes were of a very inferior nature: but vice is not only rapid, but greedy in its progress. It is like a snow ball rolled down a hill: its bulk encreases by its own swiftness.

Hence let the young and the thoughtless be taught to guard against the first approaches of vice: to shun the contamination of bad company, as they would a pestilence; and, in the Scripture phrase, to "fly from all appearance of evil."

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Account of HENRY PLUNKET, who was  
hanged at *Tyburn*, for *Murder.*

**H**ENRY PLUNKET, was a native of a place called Saar-Lewis, in the dutchy of Lorraine, and was the son of an Irish gentleman, who held the rank of Colonel in the French service, and was related to father Plunket, a priest, who was called the primate of Ireland, and came to a fatal end in the year 1679. Young Plunket was made a lieutenant when he was only ten years of age, and served under his father in Flanders, Germany, and Italy. He was remarkably distinguished for his courage, having never exhibited the least sign of fear in all the engagements in which he was concerned.

Having been a while at Ostend, he came over to England with a gentleman named Reynard, having fled from that place on account of having murdered a man.

He was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Thomas Brown, by cutting his throat with a razor, on the 30th of August, 1714.

It appeared, in the course of the evidence, that the prisoner lodged in the parish of St. Anne, Soho, in the same house with the deceased, who being a peruke-maker by trade, Plunket bespoke a wig of him, which Brown finished, and asked seven pounds for it, but at length lowered his demand to six: Plunket bid him four pounds for it; but was so enraged at what he thought an exorbitant price, that he took up a razor, cut his throat, and then made his escape; but was apprehended on the following day.

As soon as the horrid deed was perpetrated, Brown came down stairs in a bloody condition, holding his hands to his throat: on which a surgeon was sent for, who dressed his wounds, and gave him some cordials; by which he was so far recovered as to be able to describe the prisoner, who, he said, stood behind him, pulled back his head, and cut him twice on the throat.

It was proved that a sword and a pair of gloves belonging to the prisoner were found on a bed in the room where Brown was murdered; and Plunket having nothing material to urge in his defence, was found guilty, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 22d of September, 1714.

He professed to die a Roman Catholic; and it was with the utmost difficulty he was brought to confess the justice of the sentence in consequence of which he suffered.

This was one of the most unprovoked murders of which we ever remember to have read. Plunket bespoke a wig of Brown, and because the latter asked more for it than the other supposed it to be worth, he is irritated to such a degree of passion as to cut his throat; The short and serious lesson to be learnt from this shocking narrative is, to guard carefully against the first impulse of sudden passion; and to remember, that without a constant guard of this kind is kept on ourselves, that the human heart is "corrupt above all things, and "desperately wicked."

May the preventing grace of God keep us all from being guilty of crimes of this atrocious nature; crimes which are assuredly and severely punished in this world, and which threaten the most dreadful and lasting torments in the next.

Account

Account of THOMAS DOUGLAS, who was executed at *Tyburn*, for *Stabbing* WILLIAM SPARKS.

THOMAS DOUGLAS, was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of William Sparks, a seaman, at a public-house in Wapping.

It appeared in the course of the evidence, that the parties had been drinking together till they were inflamed with liquor, when the prisoner took up a knife, and stabbed the other in such a manner that he died on the spot. The atrociousness of the offence was such, that Douglas was immediately taken into custody; and being convicted on the clearest evidence, received sentence of death.

This criminal was born in the county of Berwick in Scotland, and having been educated by his parents according to the strictly religious plan prevailing in that county, he was bound apprentice to a sea-faring person at Berwick, and when he was out of his time he entered on board a ship in the royal navy, and in this station acquired the character of an expert and valiant seaman.

Having served queen Anne during several engagements in the Mediterranean and other seas, he returned to England with Sparks, who was his ship-mate, on whom he committed the murder we have mentioned.

After conviction, it was a difficult matter to make Douglas sensible of the enormity of the crime that he had committed; for he supposed that, as he was drunk when he perpetrated the fact, he ought to be considered in the same light as a man who was a lunatic.

This unhappy malefactor suffered at Tyburn on the 27th of October, 1714.

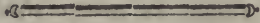
From his fate and sentiments we may learn the following useful instructions. We see that drunkenness is a crime of a very high nature, since it may lead to the commission of the highest. If this man had not been in a state of intoxication, he would probably never have been guilty of murder. We should remember that the bounties of Providence were sent for our use and sustenance, not to be abused. It is a judicious observation of the ingenious authors of the Spectator, that "if a man commits murder when he is drunk, he must be hanged for it when sober." It is no excuse for any one to say he was guilty of a crime when drunk, because drunkenness itself is a crime; and what he may deem an excuse is only an aggravation of his offence, since it is acknowledging that he has been guilty of two crimes instead of one.

The conclusion to be drawn from this sad story is, that temperance is a capital virtue; and that drunkenness, as it debauches the understanding, reduces a man below the level of the "beasts that perish." The offender before us acknowledged, in his last moments, that it was but the forerunner of other crimes: and as what happened to him may be the case with others; as drunkenness produces quarrels, and quarrels lead to murder, we hope the case of this unhappy man will impress on the minds of our readers the great importance of temperance and sobriety. We see that Douglas had received a very religious education; yet even this was inadequate to preserve him from the fatal effects of a casual intoxication! When men drink too much, and in consequence thereof assault and wound

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wound their companions, we may say, in the words of the poet, that

“Death is in the Bowl.”



Account of NATHANIEL PARKHURST, Esq.  
who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for the *Murder* of  
LEWIS PLEURA.

MR. PARKHURST was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the Murder of Lewis Pleura, on the 3d of March, 1715; and a second time indicted on the statute of stabbing: when the substance of the evidence given against him was as follows.

Parkhurst and the deceased having been fellow prisoners in the Fleet for debt, the former, who had sat up drinking till three o'clock in the morning, went into a room adjoining to that of Mr. Pleura, and said, “D—n you, Sir Lewis, “where are you?” but finding that he had mistaken the room, he went into the right chamber, and said, “D— you, Sir Lewis, pay me four “guineas you owe me.” Soon after this the cry of murder was heard; when a number of people repairing to the place, found Pleura weltering in his blood on the floor, and Parkhurst over him with his sword, who had stabbed him in near twenty places.

A surgeon was immediately sent for, who dressed the deceased, and put him to bed, and as soon as he recovered the use of his speech, he declared that Parkhurst had assassinated him. Parkhurst being taken out of the room, went back again to it, and said, “D— you, Pleura, “are you not dead yet?”

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In answer to this evidence against him, he said, that he was ignorant of having committed the crime, and, for two years and a half past, had been in a very unhappy state of mind; and several witnesses were called to prove that he had done many things which seemed to intimate that he was a lunatic: but, on the contrary, other evidences deposed, that not long before the murder happened he had taken such steps towards obtaining his liberty as proved that he was in the full use of his intellectual faculties. Upon the whole, therefore, the jury found him guilty, and he received sentence of death.

Mr. Parkhurst was a native of the village of Catesby, near Daventry in Northamptonshire, and was the son of very respectable parents, who having given him the education common in a country academy, sent him to finish his studies at Wadham college, in Oxford; but associating himself with men of an atheistical turn of mind, they employed themselves in ridiculing religion, and making a jest of the scriptures, and every thing that was held sacred.

Lewis Pleura, who was born in Italy, had taken upon himself the title of count, and subsisted by the practice of gaming, till being greatly reduced in circumstances, he was obliged to take refuge in the Fleet-prison, where he became acquainted with Mr. Parkhurst.

Soon after this offender had received sentence of death, he began to see the error of those opinions he had imbibed, acknowledged the truth of that religion he had ridiculed, and felt the force of its divine precepts. He confessed that the dissolute course of life which he had led had wasted his substance, weakened his intellectual faculties,

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ties, and disturbed his mind to such a degree, that before he committed the murder for which he suffered, he had resolved to kill some person or other, and make his escape from the Fleet Prison: or, if he should be unable to effect this, he intended to have been guilty of suicide.

It is very remarkable of this malefactor, that, on the morning of execution, he ordered a fowl to be prepared for his breakfast, of which he seemed to eat with a good appetite, and drank a pint of liquor with it.

At the place of execution he addressed himself to the populace, intimating that since he had been ill of the small-pox, about twenty years before, his head had been affected to such a degree, that he was never able to speak long at a time; wherefore he said no more, only earnestly requested their prayers for his departing soul.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of May, 1715, in the 39th year of his age.

It will seem extraordinary to our readers that Mr. Parkhurst should order a fowl for his breakfast, and eat heartily of it, just before he was going to launch into eternity; but it is within the memory of many thousand persons now living, that lord Lovat, on the morning that he was beheaded, breakfasted on minced veal, a dish of which he was extremely fond. One would imagine that the solemn scene before a man in such awful moments should detach him from every thing that had relation to this life, and that his ideas should be fixed only on those eternal scenes that were soon to be displayed to his view!

Mr. Parkhurst seems to have owed his destruction to his association with men of libertine principles: men who derided religion, and scoffed at holy things. We may safely conclude that there

is not such a being in the world as an atheist who can be happy. The man who denies the existence of that God, in whom he lives, moves, and has his being, must be extremely wretched in this world, while he is preparing for an eternity of wretchedness in the next.

On the contrary, the man who has a firm faith in the important and all cheering doctrines of christianity, will go through the various scenes of this life with a serene composure of mind; he will, as far as lies within his power, discharge his duty to God and man, and meet the moment of his dissolution in the fullest confidence that his final salvation will be perfected through the merits of that Saviour in whom he has trusted.

After the expulsion of Adam from Paradise, Cain stands the first notorious example on record of the sin of murder; a crime of so enormous a magnitude, that no language can be found in which to express its malignity. The murderer assumes to himself the privilege of Heaven, and presumes to stop the breath of his fellow-creature at his own pleasure, and to hurry him into eternity "with all his imperfections on his head."

Let those whom the turbulence of their passions may tempt only to *think* of committing murder, reflect, that there is a just God who judgeth the earth, and that all our most secret actions will be brought to light.



Account of the Trial of JOHN BIGG, who was convicted of *Altering a Bank Note*.

ON the 2d of June, 1715, John Bigg was indicted at the Old Bailey, on two indictments,



ments, the one for erasing, and the other for altering a bank-note of 100l.

On the trial it appeared that the bill in question was drawn in favour of James White or bearer, and had been signed by Joseph Odam, for the governor and company of the Bank of England: that this bill having been brought to the Bank, 90l. was paid and endorsed on it: that it was afterwards brought again, when 25l. was paid and endorsed as before; and the clerks finding that this bill, among others, had been overpaid, were surprized to think how it could have happened, till one Mr. Collins informed them that the prisoner had tempted him to be concerned with him in taking out the letters of the red ink on the notes, by means of a certain liquid; and had even shewn him in what manner it was to be done.

It appeared likewise that the prisoner had discovered this secret to Mars, who had seen him make the experiment, had received money for him on the altered notes, and was promised a third part of the profit for his share in the iniquity.

The prisoner did not deny the charge; but his council pleaded that Mr. Odam was not a servant properly qualified to make out such bills, unless he had been authorized under the seal of the corporation. They likewise insisted that writing with red ink on the inside of the bill could not be deemed an indorsement; and even if it were so accounted, the fact with which the prisoner was charged could not be called an altering or erasing.

After some altercation between the king's council and those of the prisoner, the opinion of the court was that Mr. Odam was a person properly

qualified to make out such bills; but a doubt arising respecting the other articles, the jury gave a special verdict.

The judges meeting on this occasion at Serjeant's-Inn Hall, Fleet-street, the case was solemnly argued; after which the unanimous opinion of the reverend sages of the law was given that the prisoner was guilty, within the meaning of the act of parliament; in consequence of which he received sentence of death in December, 1715, but afterwards obtained a free pardon.

From the case of this malefactor we may see the tenderneſs with which Englishmen are treated in matters which concern their lives. In cases of special verdicts prisoners have the advantage of the opinion of two juries: the first not knowing in what light to consider the crime, the learned bench of judges form a kind of second jury, where, all partiality being set aside, the supposed criminal is judged according to the strict meaning of the law: and, even after conviction, has a chance of obtaining the royal mercy, as happened in the case of the offender in question.

Hence, then, let Englishmen learn the value of those laws by which they are protected, and be devoutly thankful to that Providence which hath cast their lot in a country, the wisdom of whose legislature is the envy and admiration of the universe.



Account of HENRY POWEL, who was hanged  
at Tyburn for a Robbery on the Highway.

**H**ENRY POWEL was a native of London,  
born of respectable parents in the year 1691.  
At

HENRY POWEL—for *Highway-Robbery*. 179

At the age of nine years he was placed at Merchant Taylor's School, whence he was removed to the care of Dr. Shorter, under whom he obtained a tolerable proficiency in the Latin and Greek languages.

Having made choice of the profession of a surgeon, he was bound at Surgeon's-Hall, to a gentleman equally eminent for his skill and piety: but giving early proofs of the wildness of his disposition, his master predicted the fatal consequence that would ensue.

Powel's father and mother dying soon after he was bound, and his master, when he had served six years of his time, he was wholly at his own disposal; a circumstance that led to his ruin. He was at this time only eighteen years of age, and hitherto had not kept any company that was notoriously wicked. Going now to see a young woman who was related to him, she fancied a ring which he had on his finger, and wished he would exchange it for hers, which he did: but it appearing to be of less value than she had imagined, she was base enough, on the following morning, to have him seized in his bed, as a person proper to serve the king; and without being permitted to send for any friend, he was sent into Flanders as a foot-soldier.

He twice deserted from the regiment in which he served; but the intercession of some of his officers saved him from the customary punishment. When he had been a soldier about three years the regiment was quartered at Nieupnrt, between Dunkirk and Ostend, whence he again deserted, in company with seven other men, who travelled into Holland, where they embarked on board a ship bound to England, and being landed at Burlington in Yorkshire, Powel came up to London.

Being arrived in the metropolis, he found that he had not one acquaintance left who was able and willing to assist him; so that he repented having deserted from the army, being reduced to such a situation that he saw no prospect before him but either to beg or steal. The first he despised as a mean occupation, and the latter he dreaded as equally destructive to his soul and body.

Hereupon he applied for employment as a porter, and worked at the water-side, till a fellow induced him to be concerned in stealing some goods, for which the other was hanged.

About this time Powel married a young woman of strict virtue, who finding some irregularity in his behaviour, warned him to avoid all evil courses, as they must infallibly end in his destruction.

On the 15th of October, 1715, he went as far as South Mims in Hertfordshire, where he stopped Sarah Maddocks on the highway, and robbed her of two shillings and six-pence; for which offence he was apprehended, and being tried at the Old-Bailey in the following month, he was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 23d of December, 1715.

Just before his going to the place of execution, he delivered a paper to the Ordinary of Newgate, in which were the following passages: "I account this ignominious death as a just judgment for my sins against the Divine Majesty, and my neighbour; and therefore patiently resign myself to his blessed will, and hope (with true repentance, and a steadfast faith in Christ Jesus) he will seal my pardon in heaven, before I go hence and be no more seen; and I bless God, I have had more consolation under my condemnation, than ever

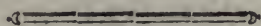
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ever I had these many years; and I hope that those who survive me will take warning by my fatal end.

“ I have this comfort, that no man can accuse me of enticing him to the commission of such facts; especially one person, who had accused me of it since my condemnation: but for the value I have for him, I'll omit his name, and desire him to take warning by me; being resolved within myself, that if God had prolonged my days, I would relinquish all such courses.”

This malefactor had been educated in a manner greatly superior to the generality of those unhappy wretches who come to a like fatal end; and seems to have owed his destruction in some degree to his poverty. Thus far he appears an object of pity; but as he was in a way of earning his bread, though in a humble station, he ought to have resigned himself to his fate, and not to have been led astray into the paths of iniquity.

Hence let the poor be taught that a shilling honestly earned will afford them more satisfaction than any sum, however large, acquired in a fraudulent manner. The man who lives by depredations on others must be always restless in his own mind. There is great force, as well as truth, in that text of Scripture which says that “ there is no peace to the wicked.”



Particulars respecting the LORDS and other Persons who were tried on account of the Rebellion in the year 1715.

**W**HEN, in pursuance of the act of settlement, king George the First succeeded to the

the throne of these realms, the earl of Mar, a Scottish nobleman, who had been deeply concerned with queen Anne's tory ministry, was deprived of all the places he held under the government; in revenge for which he retired to Scotland, and meditated a scheme to dethrone the king, and overturn the constitution.

Being assured of the assistance of a number of the Highlanders, he communicated his plan to some noblemen in Scotland and the north of England, who joined with him in sending an invitation to the Pretender to invade these kingdoms: and they also dispatched three men to London, to endeavour to enlist soldiers for the Pretender's service.

The names of these men were, Robert Whitty, Felix O'Hara, and Joseph Sullivan; and though the business in which they engaged was of the most dangerous nature, yet they continued it for some time: but were at length apprehended, brought to trial, and being convicted, were executed at Tyburn on the 28th of May, 1715.

ROBERT WHITTY was born in Ireland, and having enlisted for a soldier when young, served in an English regiment in Spain, where being wounded, he was brought to England, and received the bounty of Chelsea-college as an out-pensioner.

FELIX O'HARA, who was about 29 years of age, was likewise an Irishman, and having lived some time in Dublin as a waiter at a tavern, he saved some money, and entered into business for himself; but that not answering as he could have wished, he came to London.

JOSEPH SULLIVAN was a native of Munster in Ireland, and about the same age as O'Hara. He had for some time served in the Irish brigades,  
but

but obtaining his discharge, he came to England, and was thought a fit agent to engage in the business which cost him and his companions their lives.

These men denied, at the time of their trial, that they had been guilty of any crime; and even at the place of execution they attempted to defend their conduct. They all died professing the Roman Catholic religion.

Hence let us learn to abhor the pernicious doctrines of that church, which could encourage subjects in the wish to dethrone their lawful sovereign; and may we be taught the force of the instruction, "Fear God, and honour the King."

We will now continue the narrative, of which this is but the introduction. The earl of Mar had resolved to keep his proceedings an absolute secret; but it is almost impossible for transactions of this nature to remain so; and information of what had passed having been transmitted to Court, the King went to the House on the 20th of July, 1715, and having sent for the Commons, informed both Houses of Parliament that he had received authentic intelligence of an intention formed by the Pretender to invade his kingdoms; and that he was apprehensive he had but too many abettors in this country.

Wherefore, that the ends of public justice might be speedily obtained, the King requested that the habeas corpus act might be suspended till the rebellion should be at an end. Accordingly the legislature suspended the said act; in consequence of which several suspected persons were taken into custody. The militia was now raised in different parts of the kingdom; the guards were encamped in Hyde-park; a number of ships were ordered to guard

guard the coasts, and other proper steps taken for the public security.

The earl of Mar was by this time at the head of three thousand men, with whom he marched from town to town in Scotland, proclaiming the Pretender by the title of James the Third. Some of the soldiers in the castle of Edinburgh having been bribed to assist some of the earl of Mar's men in getting over the walls by means of rope-ladders, they were dispatched to surprize the castle: but the Lord Justice Clerk was so much on his guard, that this scheme was frustrated, and some of the parties concerned in it suffered death.

Chagrined by this circumstance, and hearing that the French King was just then dead, many of the rebels were for abandoning their enterprize till the arrival of the Pretender: but this intention did not take place: for on the 6th of October 1715, Thomas Foster, Esq; member of Parliament for Northumberland, set up the Pretender's standard in that county, and being joined by several noblemen and gentlemen, they made an attempt to seize Newcastle, but did not succeed. They were afterwards joined by a body of the Scotch at Kelso, and after marching to different places, they came to Preston in Lancashire.

In the mean time the generals Carpenter and Wills marched into the North; but finding the rebels gone southward, they went to Preston, which place the Rebels intended to defend against the King's forces, whom they for some time annoyed by firing from the windows of the houses; but at length the royal troops were victorious, after the loss of about 150 men.

It is uncertain how many of the rebels were killed; but the number of prisoners was about fifteen



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fifteen hundred, among whom were the earl of Derwentwater \*, Lord Widdrington \*: the earls of Nithisdale, Winton, and Carnwarth; viscount Kenmure, and lord Nairn. The common soldiers among the rebels were imprisoned at Liverpool; and other places in that neighbourhood; but the above-mentioned noblemen, with other persons above the common rank, to the number of near three hundred, were brought to London.

They arrived at Highgate on the 14th of November, where they were met by a party of the foot-guards, and their arms being tied back with cords, their horses were led, each by a grenadier; and in this ignominious manner they were conducted to the metropolis; when the noblemen were committed to the Tower, and the rest to Newgate.

In the mean time a number of the Scotch rebels had marched to Perth, where they proclaimed the Pretender: in consequence of which John duke of Argyle, who had been commissioned to raise forces, marched against and came up with them at Sheriffinuir, near Dumblane, on the very day of the other engagement; and the rebellion would have been then crushed, but that some of the duke's troops ran away on the first fire, and got to Stirling, about seven miles from the field of battle; however, the duke obtained a partial victory, by forcing the enemies lines with his dragoons.

The earl of Mar retired to Perth on the following day, proposing to cross the Forth, with a view to join the rebels in England: but a fleet

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\* These two were English peers: the rest Scotch.

lying opposite Edinburgh, prevented this design from being carried into execution.

About this period Sir John M'Kenzie having fortified the town of Inverness for the Pretender, lord Lovat\*, at the head of his tenants, drove him from that place; a circumstance of great importance to the royal cause, as a communication was thereby opened between the Highlands and the south of Scotland; and the earl of Seaforth, and the marquis of Huntly, laid down their arms, in consequence of the earl of Sutherland having armed his tenants in support of government.

The rebels now went into winter quarters at Perth, and the duke of Argyle at Stirling; and the Pretender having landed at Peterhead, with six attendants only, met his friends at Perth on the 22d of December; and on the ninth of the following month made a public entry into the palace of Scone, and assuming the dignity of a sovereign prince, issued a proclamation for his coronation, and another for assembling the states.

But this farce continued only for a very short time; for general Cadogan arriving with six thousand Dutch forces to the aid of the duke of Argyle, about the end of January, the latter marched towards Perth; but the rebels fled, as soon as they heard he was advancing. For while they had expectation of aid from France: in the hope of which the Pretender and his adherents went to Dundee, and thence to Montrose; but after waiting a while, and no aid arriving, they began to despair;

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\* The same lord Lovat who was beheaded on Tower-hill, for being concerned in the rebellion of 1745. What an inconsistency in this man's character!

despair; and as the King's troops pursued them, the common men dispersed to their own habitations, and the Pretender, with the earl of Mar, and some others of his principal adherents, embarked on board a ship in the harbour of Montrose, and were soon landed in France, after having narrowly escaped an English fleet which lay on the coast of Scotland, through the extreme darkness of the night in which they embarked.

The disturbance in the north being thus at an end, both houses of parliament combined to shew their loyalty to their sovereign, and regard to the public welfare. Mr. Foster was expelled from the House of Commons, who unanimously agreed to impeach the seven lords; which was accordingly done.

These unhappy noblemen were informed of what had passed; and earl Cowper, lord high chancellor, being appointed lord high steward on the occasion, all the lords pleaded guilty to the indictment, except the earl of Winton: but they offered such pleas in extenuation of their crimes as they thought might induce the king to extend his royal mercy to them; and the earl of Derwentwater hinted that the proceeding of the House of Commons in the impeachment was out of the ordinary course of law.

In consequence of their having pleaded guilty, proclamation was made for silence, and the lord high steward passed sentence of death on them, prefacing the solemn sentence with the following affecting speech:

“ JAMES earl of Derwentwater, William lord Widdrington, William earl of Nithisdale, Robert earl of Carnwarth, William viscount Kenmure, William lord Nairn:

“ You stand impeached by the Commons of Great-Britain, in parliament assembled, of high treason, in traitorously imagining and compassing the death of his most sacred majesty, and in conspiring for that end to levy a bloody and destructive war against his majesty, in order to depose and murder him; and in levying war accordingly, and proclaiming a pretender to his crown to be king of these realms.

“ Which impeachment, though one of your lordships, in the introduction to his plea, supposes to be out of the ordinary and common course of the law and justice, is yet as much a course of proceeding according to the common law, as any other whatsoever.

“ If you had been indicted, the indictment must have been removed, and brought before the House of Lords, (the parliament sitting.) In that case you had ('tis true) been accused only by the grand-jury of one county; in the present, the whole body of the commons of Great-Britain, by their representatives, are your accusers.

“ And this circumstance is very observable, (to exclude all possible supposition of hardship, as to the method of proceeding against you) that however all great assemblies are apt to differ on other points, you were impeached by the unanimous opinion of the House of Commons, not one contradicting.

“ They found themselves, it seems, so much concerned in the preservation of his most truly sacred majesty, and the Protestant succession (the very life and soul of these kingdoms) that they could not omit the first opportunity of taking their proper part, in order to so signal and necessary an act of his majesty's justice.

“ And

“ And thus the whole body politic of this free kingdom has in a manner rose up in its own defence, for the punishment of those crimes, which, it was rightly apprehended, had a direct tendency to the everlasting dissolution of it.

“ To this impeachment you have severally pleaded, and acknowledged yourselves guilty of the high treason therein contained.

“ Your pleas are accompanied with some variety of matter to mitigate your offences, and to obtain mercy.

“ Part of which, as some of the circumstances said to have attended your surrender, (seeming to be offered rather as arguments only for mercy, than any thing in mitigation of your preceding guilt) is not proper for me to take notice of.

“ But as to the other part, which is meant to extenuate the crimes of which you are convicted, it is fit I should take this occasion to make some observations to your lordships upon it, to the end that the judgment to be given against you may clearly appear to be just and righteous, as well as legal; and that you may not remain under any fatal error in respect of a greater judicature, by reflecting with less horror and remorse on the guilt you have contracted than it really deserves.

“ It is alledged, by some of your lordships, that you engaged in this rebellion without previous concert or deliberation, and without suitable preparations of men, horses, and arms.

“ If this should be supposed true, on some of your lordships averring it, I desire you to consider, that as it exempts you from the circumstance of contriving this treason, so it very much aggravates your guilt in that part you have undoubtedly borne in the execution of it.

“ For

“ For it shews, that your inclinations to rebel were so well known, (which could only be from a continued series of your words and actions) that the contrivers of that horrid design depended upon you, and therein judged rightly, that your zeal to engage in this treason was so strong, as to carry you into it on the least warning, and the very first invitation: that you would not excuse yourselves by want of preparation, as you might have done; and that rather than not have share in the rebellion, you would plunge yourselves into it, almost naked and unprovided for such an enterprize: in short, that your men, horses, and arms, were not so well prepared as they might, and would have been, on longer warning; but your minds were.

“ It is alledged also, as an extenuation of your crimes, that no cruel or harsh action (I suppose is meant no rapine or plunder, or worse) has been committed by you.

“ This may, in part only, be true: but then your lordships will at the same time consider, that the laying waste a tract of lands bears but a little proportion, in point of guilt, compared with that crime of which you stand convicted; an open attempt to destroy the best of kings, to ruin the whole fabrick, and rase the very foundations of a government, the best suited of any in the world, to perfect the happiness and support the dignity of human nature. The former offence causes but a mischief that is soon recovered, and is usually pretty much confined; the latter, had it succeeded, must have brought a lasting and universal destruction on the whole kingdom.

“ Besides, much of this was owing to accident; your march was so hasty, partly to avoid  
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the king's troops, and partly from a vain hope to stir up insurrections in all the counties you passed through, that you had not time to spread devastation, without deviating from your main, and, as I have observed, much worse design.

“ Farther: 'Tis very surprizing that any concerned in this rebellion, should lay their engaging in it on the government's doing a necessary and usual act in like cases, for its preservation; the giving orders to confine such as were most likely to join in that treason: 'tis hard to believe that any one should rebel, merely to avoid being restrained from rebelling; or that a gentle confinement would not much better have suited a crazy state of health, than the fatigues and inconveniences of such long and hasty marches in the depth of winter.

“ Your lordships rising in arms therefore, has much more justified the prudence and fitness of those orders, than those orders will in any wise serve to mitigate your treason. Alas! happy had it been for all your lordships, had you fallen under so indulgent a restraint!

“ When your lordships shall in good earnest apply yourselves to think impartially on your case, surely you will not yourselves believe that it is possible, in the nature of the thing, to be engaged, and continue so long engaged, in such a difficult and laborious enterprize, through rashness: surprize, or inadvertency; or that had the attack at Preston been less sudden, (and consequently the rebels better prepared to receive it) your lordships had been reduced the sooner, and with less, if not without any bloodshed.

“ No, my lords, these, and such like, are artful colourings proceeding from minds filled with expectation of continuing in this world, and not from

from such as are preparing for their defence before a tribunal, where the thoughts of the heart, and the true springs and causes of actions must be laid open.

“ And now, my lords, having thus removed some false colours you have used; to assist you yet farther in that necessary work of thinking on your great offence as you ought, I proceed to touch upon several circumstances that seem greatly to aggravate your crime, and which will deserve your most serious consideration.

“ The divine virtues ('tis one of your lordships own epithets) which all the world, as well as your lordships, acknowledge to be in his majesty, and which you now lay claim to, ought certainly to have with-held your hands from endeavouring to depose, to destroy, to murder, that most excellent prince; so the impeachment speaks, and so the law construes your actions: and this is not only true in the notion of law, but almost always so indeed and reason. 'Tis a trite, but a very true remark, that there are but few hours between kings being reduced under the power of pretenders to their crown and their graves. Had you succeeded, his majesty's case would, I fear, have hardly been an exception to that general rule, since 'tis highly improbable that flight should have saved any of that illustrious and valiant family.

“ 'Tis a further aggravation of your crime, that his majesty, whom your lordships would have dethroned, affected not the crown by force, or by the arts of ambition, but succeeded peaceably and legally to it; and, on the decease of her late majesty without issue, became undoubtedly the next in course of descent capable of succeeding to the crown, by the law and constitution of this  
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kingdom, as it stood declared some years before the crown was expressly limited to the house of Hanover. This right was acknowledged, and the descent of the crown limited or confirmed accordingly, by the whole legislatures in two successive reigns, and more than once in the latter; which your lordships accomplices are very far from allowing would bias the nation to that side.

“ How could it then enter into the heart of man, to think that private persons might with a good conscience endeavour to subvert such a settlement, by running to tumultuary arms, and by intoxicating the dregs of the people with contradictory opinions and groundless slanders: or that God’s providence would ever prosper such wicked, such ruinous attempts? Especially if, in the next place, it be considered, that the most fertile inventions, on the side of the rebellion, have not been able to assign the least shadow of a grievance as the cause of it: to such poor shifts have they been reduced on this head, that, for want of better colours, it has been objected, in a solemn manner, by your lordship’s associates, to his majesty’s government, that his people do not enjoy the fruits of peace, as our neighbours have done, since the last war: thus they first rob us of our peace, and then upbraid us that we have it not. It is a monstrous rebellion, that can find no fault with the government it invades, but what is the effect of the rebellion itself.

“ Your lordships will likewise do well to consider what an additional burden your treason has made necessary on the people of this kingdom, who wanted and were about to enjoy some respite: to this end, ’tis well known, that all new, or increase of taxes, were the last year carefully avoided,

and his majesty was contented to have no more forces than were just sufficient to attend his person, and shut the gates of a few garrisons.

“ But what his majesty thus did for the ease and quiet of his people, you most ungratefully turned to his disadvantage, by taking encouragement from thence, to endanger his and his kingdoms safety, and to bring oppression on your fellow-subjects.

“ Your Lordships observe, I avoid expatiating on the miseries of a civil war, a very large and copious subject: I shall but barely suggest to you on that head, that whatever those calamities may happen to be, in the present case, all who are, at any time, or in any place, partakers in the rebellion, (especially persons of figure and distinction) are in some degree responsible for them; and therefore your lordships must not hold yourselves quite clear from the guilt of those barbarities which have been lately committed, by such as are engaged in the same treason with you, and not yet perfectly reduced, in burning the habitations of their countrymen, and thereby exposing many thousands to cold and hunger in this rigorous season.

“ I must be so just, to such of your lordships as profess the religion of the church of Rome, that you had one temptation, and that a great one, to engage you in this treason, which the others had not; in that, it was evident, success on your part must for ever have established Popery in this kingdom, and that probably you could never have again so fair an opportunity.

“ But then, good God! how must these Protestants be covered with confusion, who entered into the same measures, without so much as capitulating for their religion, (that ever I could find  
from

from any examination I have seen or heard) or so much as requiring, much less obtaining a frail promise, that it should be preserved, or even tolerated.

“ It is my duty to exhort your lordships thus to think of the aggravations, as well as the mitigations (if there be any) of your offences: and if I could have the least hopes, that the prejudices of habit and education would not be too strong for the most earnest and charitable entreaties, I would beg you not to rely any longer on those directors of your consciences, by whose conduct you have, very probably, been led into this miserable condition; but that your lordships would be assisted by some of those pious and learned divines of the church of England, who have constantly borne that infallible mark of sincere Christians, universal charity.

“ And now, my lords, nothing remains, but that I pronounce upon you (and sorry I am that it falls to my lot to do it) that terrible sentence of the law, which must be the same that is usually given against the meanest offender in the like kind.

“ The most ignominious and painful parts of it are usually remitted, by the grace of the crown, to persons of your quality; but the law, in this case, being deaf to all distinctions of persons, requires I should pronounce, and accordingly it is adjudged by this court,

“ That you, James Earl of Derwentwater, William Lord Widdrington, William Earl of Nithisdale, Robert Earl of Carnwarth, William Viscount Kenmure, and William Lord Nairn, and every of you, return to the prison of the Tower, from whence you came; from thence you must be drawn to the plate of execution; when

you come there, you must be hanged by the neck, but not till you be dead; for you must be cut down alive; then your bowels must be taken out, and burnt before your faces; then your heads must be severed from your bodies, and your bodies divided each into four quarters; and these must be at the King's disposal. And God Almighty be merciful to your souls."

After sentence thus passed, the lords were remanded back to the Tower, and on the 18th of February, orders were sent to the lieutenant of the Tower and sheriffs for their execution; and great solicitations were made in favour of them, which did not only reach the court, but came down to the two houses of parliament, and petitions were delivered in both, which being backed by some, occasioned debates: that in the House of Commons arose no higher than to occasion a motion for adjournment, thereby to prevent any further interposition there; but the matter in the House of Peers was carried on with more success, where their petitions were delivered and spoke to, and it was carried by nine or ten voices, that the same should be received and read. And the question was put, whether the King had power to reprieve, in case of impeachment? which being carried in the affirmative, a motion was made to address his Majesty to desire him to grant a reprieve to the lords under sentence; but the movers thereof only obtained this clause, viz. "To reprieve such  
 " of the condemned lords as deserve his mercy;  
 " and that the time of the respite should be left  
 " to his Majesty's discretion."

To which address his Majesty replied,

" That on this, and other occasions, he would  
 " do what he thought most consistent with the  
 " dignity

“dignity of his crown, and the safety of his  
“people.”

The great parties they had made, as was said, by the means of money, and also the rash expressions too common in the mouths of many of their friends, as if the government did not dare to execute them, did not a little contribute to the halting their execution: for on the same day the address was presented, the 23d of February, it was resolved in council, that the earl of Derwentwater and the lord Kenmure, should be beheaded; and the earl of Northdale, apprehending he should be included in the warrant, made his escape the evening before, in a woman's riding-hood; supposed to have been conveyed to him by his mother on a visit.

In the morning of the 24th of February three detachments of the life-guards went from Whitehall to Tower-hill, and having taken their stations round the scaffold, the two lords were brought from the Tower at ten o'clock, and being received by the sheriffs at the bar, were conducted to the Transport-office on Tower-hill; and, at the expiration of about an hour, the earl of Derwentwater sent word that he was ready: on which Sir John Fryer, one of the sheriffs, walked before him to the scaffold, and when there told him he might have what time he pleased to prepare himself for death.

His lordship desired to read a paper which he had written, the substance of which was, that he was sorry for having pleaded guilty; that he acknowledged no king but James the Third, for whom he had an inviolable affection, and that these kingdoms would never be happy till the ancient constitution was restored; and he wished his death might contribute to that desirable end. His lordship

ship professed to die a Roman Catholic, and in the postscript to his speech, said, "If that prince, who now governs, had given me life, I should have thought myself obliged never more to have taken up arms against him."

Sir John Fryer desiring to have the paper, he said he had sent a copy of it to his friends, and then delivered it. He then read some prayers out of two small books, and kneeled down to try how the block would fit his neck. This being done, he had again recourse to his devotions, and having told the executioner that he forgave him, and likewise forgave all his enemies, he directed him to strike when he should repeat the words "sweet Jesus" the third time.

He then kneeled down, and said, "sweet Jesus! receive my spirit; sweet Jesus! be merciful to me; sweet Jesus"—and appeared to be proceeding in his prayer, when his head was struck off at one blow; and the executioner taking it up; exhibited it at the four corners of the scaffold, saying, "Behold the head of a traitor:—God save king George."

The body was now wrapped up in black baize, and being carried to a coach, was delivered to the friends of the deceased; and the scaffold having been cleared, fresh baize put on the block, and saw-dust strewed, that none of the blood might appear, lord Kenmure was conducted to the scaffold.

His lordship, who was a Protestant was attended by two clergymen; but he declined saying much, telling one of them that he had prudential reasons for not delivering his sentiments: which were supposed to arise from his regard to lord Carnwarth, who was his brother-in-law, and was then interceding for the royal mercy; as his talk-  
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ing in the way that lord Derwentwater had done, might be supposed to injure his lordship with those most likely to serve him.

Lord Kenmure having finished his devotions, declared that he forgave the executioner, to whom he made a present of eight guineas. He was attended by a surgeon, who drew his finger over that part of the neck where the blow was to be struck; and being executed as lord Derwentwater had been, his body was delivered to the care of an undertaker.

George earl of Winton, not having pleaded guilty with the other lords, was brought to his trial on the 15th of March, when the principal matter urged in his favour was, that he had surrendered at Preston in consequence of a promise from general Wills to grant him his life: in answer to which it was sworn, that no promise of mercy was made, but that the rebels surrendered at discretion.

The earl of Winton having left his house, with fourteen or fifteen of his servants, well mounted and armed;—his joining the earl Carnwarth and lord Kenmure; his proceeding with the rebels through the various stages of their march, and his surrendering with the rest, were circumstances fully proved: notwithstanding which his council moved in arrest of judgment: but the plea on which this motion was founded being thought insufficient, his peers unanimously found him guilty: and then the lord high steward pronounced sentence on him, after having addressed him in the following forcible terms:

“**G**EORGE Earl of Winton, I have acquainted you, that your peers have found you

you guilty : that is, in the terms of the law, convicted you of the high-treason whereof you stand impeached ; after your lordship has moved in arrest of judgment, and their lordships have disallowed that motion, their next step is to proceed to judgment.

“ The melancholy part I am to bear, in pronouncing that judgment upon you, since it is his majesty’s pleasure to appoint me to that office, I dutifully submit to it : far, very far, from taking any satisfaction in it.

“ Till conviction, your lordship has been spoke to without the least prejudice, or supposition of your guilt ; but now it must be taken for granted, that your lordship is guilty of the high-treason whereof you stand impeached.

“ My lord, this your crime is the greatest known to the law of this kingdom, or of any other country whatsoever, and it is of the blackest and most odious species of that crime ; a conspiracy and attempt, manifested by an open rebellion, to depose and murder that sacred person, who sustains, and is the majesty of the whole ; and from whom, as from a fountain of warmth and glory, are dispersed all the honours, all the dignity of the state ; indeed the lasting and operative life and vigour of the laws, which plainly subsist by a due administration of the executive power.

“ So that attempting this precious life, is really striking at the most noble part, the seat of life, and spring of all motion in this government ; and may therefore properly be called a design to murder not only the king, but also the body politick of this kingdom.

“ And this is most evidently true in your lordship’s case, considering that success in your treason must infallibly have established Popery, and that



that never fails to bring with it, a civil as well as ecclesiastic tyranny: which is quite another sort of constitution than that of this kingdom, and cannot take place till the present is annihilated.

“ This your crime (so I must call it) is the more aggravated, in that where it proceeds so far as to take arms openly, and to make an offensive war against lawful authority, it is generally (as in your case) complicated with the horrid and crying sin of murdering many, who are not only innocent, but meritorious: and if pity be due (as I admit it is in some degree) to such as suffer for their own crimes, it must be admitted a much greater share of compassion is owing to them who have lost their lives merely by the crimes of other men.

“ As many as have so done in the late rebellion, so many murders have they to answer for who promoted it; and your lordship, in examining your conscience, will be under a great delusion, if you look on those who fell at Preston, Dumlain, or elsewhere, on the side of the laws, and defence of settled order and government, as slain in lawful war, even judging of this matter by the law of nations.

“ Alas! my lord, your crime of high-treason is yet made redder, by shedding a great deal of the best blood in the kingdom; I include in this expression the brave common soldiers, as well as those gallant and heroic officers, who continued faithful to death, in defence of the laws: for sure but little blood can be better than that, which is shed while it is warm, in the cause of the true religion, and the liberties of its native country.

“ I believe it, notwithstanding the unfair arts and industry used, to stir up a pernicious excess of

commiseration toward such as have fallen by the sword of justice, (few, if compared with the numbers of good subjects, murdered from doors and windows at Preston only) the life of one honest, loyal subject is more precious in the eye of God, and all considering men, than the lives of many rebels and parricides.

“ This puts me in mind to observe to your lordship, that there is another malignity in your lordship’s crime, (open rebellion) which consists in this, that it is always sure of doing hurt to a government, in one respect, though it be defeated; (I will not say it does so on the whole matter).

“ For if the offence is too notorious to be let pass unobserved, by any connivance: then is government reduced to this dilemma: if it be not punished, the state is endangered by suffering examples to appear, that it may be attacked with impunity; if it be punished, they who are publicly or privately favourers of the treason (and perhaps some out of mere folly) raise undeserved clamours of cruelty against those in power; or the lowest their malice flies, is to make unseasonable, unlimited, and injudicious encomiums upon mercy and forgiveness, (things, rightly used, certainly of the greatest excellence.)

“ And this proceeding, it must be admitted, does harm, with silly and undistinguishing people. So that the rebels have the satisfaction of thinking they hurt the government a little even by their fall.

“ The only; but true consolation, every wise government has, in such a case, (after it has tempered justice with mercy, in such proportion as sound discretion directs, having always a care of the public safety above all things) is this; that such

such like feeds of unreasonable discontents, take root on very shallow soil only; and that therefore, after they have made a weak shoot, they soon wither and come to nothing.

“ It is well your lordship has given an opportunity of doing the government right, on the subject of your surrender at Preston.

“ How confidently had it been given out by the faction, that the surrender was made on assurances, at least hopes, insinuated of pardon. Whereas the truth appears to be, that fear was the only motive to it: the evil day was deferred: and the rebels rightly depended, fewer would die at last by the measures they elected, than if they had stood an assault. They were awed by the experienced courage, discipline, and steadiness of the King's troops, and by the superior genius and spirit of his Majesty's commanders, over those of the rebels: so that in truth, they were never flattered with any other terms, than to surrender as rebels and traitors; their lives only to be spared till his Majesty's pleasure should be known.

“ It was indeed a debt due to those brave commanders and soldiers (to whom their king and country owe more than can be well expressed) that their victory should be vindicated to the present and future ages, from untrue detraction, and kept from being sullied by the tongues of rebels and their accomplices, when their arms could no longer hinder it.

“ 'Tis hard to leave this subject without shortly observing, that this engine, which sets the world on fire, a lying tongue, has been of prodigious use to the party of the rebels, not only since, and during the rebellion, but before, while it was forming, and the rebels preparing for it.

“ False facts, false hopes, and false characters, have been the greater half of the scheme they set out with, and yet seem to depend upon.

“ It has been rightly observed, your lordship’s answer does not so much as insift, with any clearness, on that which only could excuse your being taken in open rebellion; that is, you was forced into it, remained so under a force, and would have escaped from it, but could not.

“ If you had so insifted, it has been clearly proved that that had not been true; for your lordship was active and forward in many instances, and so considerable in military capacity among your fellow-foldiers, as to command a squadron. These, and other particulars, have been observed by the managers of the House of Commons, and therefore I shall not pursue them further, but conclude this introduction to the sentence, by exhorting your lordship, with perfect charity and much earnestness, to consider that now the time is come, when the veil of partiality should be taken from your eyes, (it must be so when you come to die) and that your lordship should hence forward think with clearness and indifference, (if possible) which must produce in you a hearty detestation of the high crime you have committed; and, being a Protestant, be very likely to make you a sincere penitent, for your having engaged in a design that must have destroyed the holy religion you profess, had it taken effect.

“ Nothing now remains, but that I pronounce upon you that sentence which the law ordains, and which sufficiently shews what thoughts your ancestors had of the crime of which your lordship is now convicted, viz. “ That you George Earl of Winton, &c.”

Soon after the passing this sentence, the earls of Winton and Nithisdale found means to escape out of the Tower; and Mess. Foster and M<sup>c</sup>Intosh escaped from Newgate; but it was supposed that motives of mercy and tenderness in the prince of Wales, afterwards George the Second, favoured the escape of all these gentlemen.

This rebellion occasioned the untimely death of many other persons. Five were executed at Manchester, six at Wigan, and eleven at Preston: but a considerable number were brought to London, and being arraigned in the court of Exchequer, most of them pleaded guilty, and suffered the utmost rigour of the law.

It will now be proper that we mention the cases of such other remarkable persons as suffered on account of the rebellion; and then we will make some general remarks on the nature and heinousness of that offence.



Account of JOHN GORDON, WILLIAM KERR, and JOHN DORRELL, who were executed at *Tyburn* for *High-Treason*.

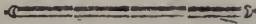
ALL the particulars we have been able to learn respecting these men are as follows. They had all of them served as officers in the army during the wars in the reign of queen Anne, but they were zealous friends to the cause of the Pretender.

Having learnt that the rebels had got as far as Lancashire, they appear to have been animated with the hope that success would attend the enterprize; whereupon they held several meetings at a public-house in Shoe-lane, London, where they agreed to set off for different parts of the country, to enlist some men to promote the undertaking;

taking ; and they bound themselves to each other, by the most solemn oaths, to keep their transactions secret.

But they defeated the effects of these oaths almost in the moment they took them : for they met so often, and were so careless of what they said, that they were heard by persons who listened at the door of their room : in consequence of which information was given, and they were taken into custody, tried, and being convicted on full evidence, were hanged and quartered at Tyburn on the 7th of December, 1715.

They were the first persons that suffered on account of the rebellion ; professed themselves Roman Catholics, and died denying the justice of the sentence against them.



Account of Colonel HENRY OXBURGH, who was executed at *Tyburn*, for *High-Treason*.

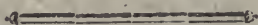
**H**ENRY Oxburgh, Esq. the son of a man of considerable property in Lancashire, having been educated in the most rigid principles of the Roman Catholic religion, was sent abroad while a youth into the service of France, in which he acquired the character of a brave and gallant officer.

At the close of the war, he returned to England to see his friends, and finding that the rebels were advancing southwards, he raised a regiment, with which he joined the main army before it reached Preston. Colonel Oxburgh was the man who ordered the rebels to fire on the royal troops, and, if his opinion had been taken, the town would not have surrendered so soon as it did.

On his trial he pleaded guilty ; but after sentence was passed on him, and he found that every appli-

application for mercy was unsuccessful, he talked in a strain very different from that of a man conscious of any crime. He said he considered the Pretender as his lawful sovereign, and never deemed himself the subject of any other prince. He even asserted that he would have been equally loyal to the Pretender if he had been a protestant.

This unhappy man, who seems to have fallen a victim to the prejudice of education, was hanged at Tyburn on the 14th of May, 1716.



Account of RICHARD GASCOIGN, Gentleman, who was executed at *Tyburn* for *High-Treason*.

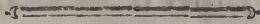
**T**HIS unfortunate man was singularly active in fomenting the rebellion. So zealous was he in the cause, that he mortgaged his whole estate to supply him with money to purchase arms from foreign countries.

When the rebels marched towards the south of England he engaged all the forces he could, and went and joined them, proclaiming the Pretender king at every stage of his march. He was made prisoner by the king's troops at Preston, at the same time as Colonel Oxburgh; and being arraigned before Lord Chief Justice King, in Westminster-Hall, he pleaded "not guilty."

On his trial it was proved that some casks of arms which he had purchased abroad, were found on board a ship, directed to him; and being found guilty, on the clearest evidence, sentence of death was passed on him; in consequence of which he was executed at Tyburn, on the 25th of May, 1716.

While he lay under sentence of death his sentiments appeared to be nearly the same as those of Colonel Oxburgh: and at the place of execution he

he declared that he did not take up arms with a view to restore the Roman catholic religion, but solely in behalf of James the third, whom he deemed his lawful sovereign.



Account of the Rev. WILLIAM PAUL, who was executed at *Tyburn* for *High-Treason*.

**M**R. PAUL was born of reputable parents, near Lutterworth, in Leicestershire, and having been educated for the pulpit, took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at St. John's College, Cambridge. After officiating as a chaplain for two clergymen, the bishop of Oxford presented him to the vicarage of Orton, in his native county, to which he was instituted in the year 1709.

The rebels having reached Preston, Mr. Paul began a journey to meet them; but was apprehended on suspicion, and carried before Colonel Noel, a justice of the peace, who finding no just cause of detention, dismissed him; on which he continued his journey to Preston, where he read prayers to the rebels three days successively, and prayed for the Pretender, by the name of King James, in the parish church.

A short time before the national forces reached Preston, Mr. Paul quitted that place, and coming to London, disguised himself by wearing coloured cloaths, a sword, a laced hat, and a full-bottomed wig.

But he had not been long in this disguise before he was met by Mr. Bird, a justice of the peace for Leicestershire, who caused him to be taken into custody, and carried to the house of the duke of Devonshire, who sent him to the secretary of state for examination; but as he refused to make any confession, he was delivered to  
the



the custody of one of the king's messengers, with whom he remained about a fortnight, and was then committed to Newgate.

He was arraigned at Westminster on the 31st of May, and pleaded "not guilty;" on which he was remanded to Newgate, and had time allowed him to prepare his defence. On his return to prison he sent for a friend; to whom he said, "What must I do? I have been this day arraigned, and pleaded not guilty; but that will not avail, for too much will be proved against me." To this his friend replied, "I will persuade you to nothing; but, in my opinion, the best way is to confess your fault, ask pardon, and throw yourself on the King's mercy." Mr. Paul said his council advised the same, and he was resolved to do so; and when he was again brought to the bar, he retracted his former plea, and pleaded guilty; in consequence of which sentence of death was passed on him.

Being sent back to prison, he made every possible interest for the preservation of his life; for he seemed to have a most singular dread of death, particularly when attended with such disgraceful circumstances as he had reason to apprehend. He wrote a petition to the king, another to the lord chief justice, and letters to the archbishop of Canterbury, with other letters to clergymen; in all of which he acknowledges his crime, and his change of sentiments; and intercedes for mercy, in terms of the most abject humiliation.

In a letter to a female relation, he says, "I am among the number of those that are to suffer next Friday.—I cannot think of dying the death of a dog, by the hands of a common executioner, with any manner of patience. Transportation,

“ tation, perpetual imprisonment, or any other  
 “ condition of life, will be infinitely preferable  
 “ to so barbarous and insupportable a way of end-  
 “ ing it; and means must be found for preventing,  
 “ or I shall anticipate the ignominy of the halter,  
 “ by laying violent hands on myself. Give Mr.  
 “ C ——— r, to understand, that he may promise  
 “ any thing that he shall think fit in my name;  
 “ and that his royal highness the prince, and his  
 “ council, shall have no cause to repent of their  
 “ mercy to me.”

All Mr. Paul's petitions, however, proved fruit-  
 less: he was ordered for execution, and was at-  
 tended by a nonjuring clergyman, who endea-  
 voured to inspire him with an idea of the justice  
 of the cause for which he was to yield his life:  
 he was, however, dreadfully affected till within a  
 few days of his death; when he began to assume a  
 greater degree of courage.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 18th of  
 July, 1716, being attended by a nonjuring clergy-  
 man, having declined the assistance of the ordi-  
 nary of Newgate. Just before the cart drew away  
 he made a speech, of which the following is a  
 copy:

“ Good People,

**I** AM just going to make my appearance in the  
 other world, where I must give an account of  
 all the actions of my past life; and though I have  
 endeavoured to make my peace with God, by sin-  
 cerely repenting of all my sins, yet forasmuch as  
 several of them were of a public nature, I take it  
 to be my duty to declare here, in the face of the  
 world, my hearty abhorrence and detestation of  
 them.

And

And first, I ask pardon of God and the King, for having violated my loyalty, by taking most abominable oaths, in defence of usurpation, against my lawful sovereign King James the Third.

And as I ask pardon of all whom I have injured or offended, so I do especially desire forgiveness of all those whom I have scandalized by pleading guilty. I am sensible it is a base and dishonourable action; that it is inconsistent with my duty to the King, and an entire surrender of my loyalty. Human frailty, and too great a desire for life, together with the persuasion of several, who pretended to be my friends, were the occasion of it. I trust God of his infinite mercy has forgiven me, and I hope all good christians will.

You see, my countrymen, by my habit, that I die a son, though a very unworthy one, of the church of England; but I would not have you think I am a member of the schismatical church, whose bishops set themselves up in opposition to those orthodox fathers, who were unlawfully and invalidly deprived by the prince of Orange. I declare that I renounce that communion, and that I die a dutiful and faithful member of the Nonjuring church, which has kept itself free from rebellion and schism, and has preserved and maintained true orthodox principles both as to church and state; and I desire the clergy, and all members of the Revolution church, to consider what bottom they stand upon, when their succession is grounded upon an unlawful and invalid deprivation of Catholic bishops, the only foundation of which deprivation is a pretended act of parliament.

Having asked forgiveness for myself, I come now to forgive others. I pardon those, who, under a

notion of friendship, persuaded me to plead guilty. I heartily forgive all my most inveterate enemies, especially the elector of Hanover, my lord Townsend, and others; who have been instrumental in promoting my death. Father, forgive them! Lord Jesus, have mercy upon them! and lay not this sin to their charge.

The next thing I have to do, Christian friends, is, to exhort you all to return to your duty. Remember that king James the Third is your only rightful sovereign, by the laws of the land, and the constitution of the kingdom; and therefore, if you would perform the duty of justice to him, which is due to all mankind, you are obliged, in conscience, to do all you can to restore him to his crown: for it is his right; and no man in the world, besides himself, can claim a title to it. And as it is your duty to serve him, so it is your interest; for, till he is restored, the nation can never be happy. You see what miseries and calamities have befallen this nation, by the revolution; and I believe you are now convinced, by woeful experience, that swerving from God's laws, and thereby putting yourselves out of his protection, is not the way to secure you from those evils and misfortunes you are afraid of in this world. Before the revolution, you thought your religion, liberties and property in danger; and I pray you to consider how you have preserved them by rebelling: are they not ten times more precarious than ever? Who can say he is certain of his life or estate, when he considers the proceedings of the present administration? And as for your religion, is it not evident that the revolution, instead of keeping out Popery, has let in Atheism? Do not heresies abound every day? And are not the teachers of false doctrine

doctrine patronised by the great men in the government? this shews the kindness and affection they have for the church; and to give you another instance of the respect and reverence they have for it, you are now going to see a priest of the church of England murdered for doing his duty; for it is not me they strike at so particularly, but it is through me they would wound the priesthood, bring disgrace upon the gown, and a scandal upon my sacred function. But they would do well to remember, that he who despises Christ's priests, despises Christ; and he who despises him, despises him that sent him.

And now, beloved, if you have any regard to your country, which lies bleeding under these dreadful extremities, bring the King to his undoubted right: this is the only way to be freed from these misfortunes, and to secure all those rights and privileges which are in danger at present. King James has promised to protect and defend the church of England: he has given his royal word to consent to such laws which you yourselves shall think necessary to be made for its preservation; and his majesty is a prince of that justice, virtue, and honour, that you have no reason to doubt of the performance of his royal promise: he studies nothing so much as to make you all easy and happy, and whenever he comes to his kingdom, I doubt not but you will be so.

I shall be heartily glad, good people, if what I have said has any effect upon you, so as to be instrumental in making you perform your duty. It is out of my power now to do any thing more to serve the King, than by employing some of the few minutes I have to live in this world in praying Almighty God to shower down his blessings, both spiritual and temporal, upon his head; to protect  
and

and restore him; to be favourable to his undertaking; to prosper him here, and to reward him hereafter. I beseech the same infinite goodness to protect and defend the church of England, and to restore it to all its just rights and privileges; and lastly, I pray God to have mercy upon me, pardon my sins, and receive my soul into his everlasting kingdom, that with the Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, and Martyrs, I may praise and magnify him for ever and ever. Amen.

As to my body, brethren, I have taken no care of it, for I value not that barbarous part of my sentence, of being cut down and quartered. When I am once gone, I shall be out of the reach of my enemies; and I wish I had quarters enough to send to every parish in the kingdom; to testify that a clergyman of the church of England was martyred for being loyal to his King.

July 13, 1716.

WILLIAM PAUL,"

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Account of JOHN HALL, Esq. who was executed at *Tyburn*, for *High Treason*.

JOHN HALL, Esq. was a justice of the peace for the county of Northumberland, and having been taken prisoner with the other rebels at Preston, was brought to London, and indicted for having joined, aided, and abetted the rebels.

Two evidences deposed that he was seen at different places with the rebels: but in his defence he said, that having been to a meeting of the justices at Plainfield, he had lodged at a friend's house, and that on the following day, while he was stooping on his horse's neck, to screen himself from the tempestuous weather, himself and his servant were surrounded by the rebels, who forced them away: and that he was unarmed,

and

and had only seven shillings and sixpence in his possession.

Though this circumstance was sworn to by Mr. Hall's servant, yet the court, in the charge to the jury, observed that "if a man was seen with rebels, yet if it appeared, that he had frequent opportunities of escaping, and did not do it, but continued by his presence to abet and comfort them, it was treason within the meaning of the law."

Now as it appeared in evidence that Mr. Hall had liberty to ride out when he pleased, and did not seem to be restrained, the jury found him guilty: and when the court passed sentence on him he said, "God's will be done."

After conviction he was attended by a non-juring clergyman; and behaved with manly fortitude under his misfortunes: however he made such interest that he obtained five short reprieves, and might possibly have been pardoned; but that having written the following speech some weeks before his death, the knowledge thereof is supposed to have reached the court; for when a nobleman made application for a pardon, he was answered, "By no means, my good lord: it were a pity Mr. Hall, should lose the opportunity of leaving such a speech behind him, as he gives out will raise the spirits of the whole nation to be of the same mind with him, and will be instrumental in bringing in the person whom he calls his lawful sovereign king James the third."

Mr. Hall was executed at the same time and place with Mr. Paul; and a few minutes before he was turned off, he delivered a paper to the sheriff, which is as follows:

"Friends,

“ Friends, Brethren, and Countrymen,

**I** AM come here to die, for the sake of God, my king, and my country; and I heartily rejoice that I am counted worthy of so great an honour: for let not any of you think that I am come to a shameful and ignominious end: the truth and justice of the cause for which I suffer, makes my death a duty, a virtue, and an honour. Remember that I lay down my life for asserting the right of my only lawful sovereign king James the Third; that I offer myself a victim for the liberties and happiness of my dear country, and my beloved fellow-subjects; that I fall a sacrifice to tyranny, oppression, and usurpation. In short, consider that I suffer in the defence of the command of God, and the laws, and hereditary constitution of the land; and then know, and be assured, that I am not a traitor, but a martyr.

I declare that I die a true and sincere member of the church of England, but not of the revolution schismatical church, whose bishops have rebelliously abandoned the king, and so shamefully given up the rights of the church, by submitting to the unlawful invalid lay-deprivations of the prince of Orange. The communion I die in, is that of the true catholic nonjuring church of England, and I pray God to prosper and increase it, and to grant (if it be his good pleasure) that it may rise again, and flourish.

I heartily beg pardon of all whom I have in any manner, and at any time, injured and offended. I do particularly implore forgiveness of God and my king, for having so far swerved from my duty, as to comply with the usurpation, in swearing allegiance to it, and acting in public posts by the usurper's commissions, which were void of all power and authority. God knows my heart, I  
did



did this at first through ignorance and error, but after I had recollected myself, and informed my judgment better, I repented, and drew my sword for the king, and now submit myself to this violent death for his sake. I heartily pray God my patience and my sufferings may atone for my former crime; and this I beg through the merits, mediation, and sufferings of my dearest Saviour Jesus Christ.

I do sincerely forgive all my enemies, especially those who have either caused or increased the destruction in church or state; I pray God have mercy upon them, and spare them, because they are the works of his own hands, and because they are redeemed with his Son's most precious blood. I do, particularly, forgive from the bottom of my heart, the elector of Brunswick, who murders me; my unjust pretended judges and jury, who convicted and condemned me; Mr. Patten and Carnaby, evidences who swore against me at my trial. And I do here declare, upon the words of a dying man (and all my Northumberland fellow prisoners can testify the same) that the evidence they gave was so far from being the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, that, in relation to my indictment, they swore not one true thing against me, but many absolute falsehoods. I pray God forgive them, for I am sure I do.

Lastly, I forgive all who had a hand in the surrender at Preston, for they have surrendered away my life; and I would to God that were the only bad consequence of it. But, alas! it is too plain that the surrenderers not only ruined many of his majesty's brave and faithful subjects, but gave up their king and country into the bargain.

for it was then in their power to have restored the king with triumph to his throne, and thereby to have made us a happy people. We had repulsed our enemies at every attack, and were ready, willing, and able to have attacked them.

On our side, even our common men were brave, courageous, and resolute: on the other hand, theirs were directly the contrary, insomuch, that after they had run away from our first fire, they could never be brought so much as to endeavour to stand a second. This I think myself obliged in justice to mention, that Mr. Wills may not impose upon the world, as if he and his troops had conquered us, and gained the victory; for the truth is, after we had conquered them, our superiors thought fit to capitulate and ruin us; I wish them God's and the king's pardon for it.

May it please God to bless, preserve, and restore our only rightful and lawful sovereign king James the Third; may he direct his counsels, and prosper his arms; may he bring him to his kingdom, and set the crown upon his head.

May he protect him from the malice of his enemies, and defend him from those who for a reward would slay him innocent! may he grant him in health and wealth long to live; may he strengthen him, that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies; and finally, when it pleases his infinite wisdom to take him out of this world, may he take him to himself, and reward him with an everlasting crown of glory in the next.

These, my beloved countrymen, are the sincere prayers, these the last words of me who am now a dying person; and if you have any regard to the last breath of one who is just going out of the world, let me beg of you to be dutiful, obedient, and loyal, to your only sovereign liege lord,

J. W.

king James the Third; be ever ready to serve him, and be sure you never fail to use all your endeavour to restore him; and whatever the consequence be, remember that you have a good cause, and a gracious God, and expect a recompence from him.

To that God, the God of truth and holiness, the rewarder of all who suffer for righteousness sake, I commend my soul, beseeching him to have mercy upon it, for the sake of my dear Redeemer, and merciful Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen, Amen, Amen.

July 13, 1716.

JOHN HALL.

Postscript.

I might reasonably have expected my life would have been saved, since I had obtained five reprieves; but I find that the Duke of Hanover, and his evil counsellors who guide him, have so little virtue and honour themselves, that they are resolved not to spare my life, because I would not purchase it upon base and dishonourable terms. I have reason to think, that at first I could have secured my life and fortune, if I would have pleaded guilty; and I doubt not but I might since have obtained favour, if I would have petitioned in a vile, scandalous manner: but I was resolved to do nothing whereby I should have disowned my king, and denied my principles; and I thank my good God, both for inspiring me with this holy resolution, and for giving me the grace to perform it.

July 13, 1716.

Having now finished our narrative of persons executed on account of the rebellion, we will make some general remarks.

The crime of rebellion is of a most atrocious nature, because, in case of its success, it tends to involve the innocent in one general ruin with the guilty. It oversets the established and legal forms of government, and introduces anarchy and confusion, where all before was order and decorum. The rebellion of which we are writing was fomented against a prince, seated on the throne by the right of succession, confirmed by the laws of the land.

There is, indeed, something of an excuse to be offered for some of those who engaged in it, preferably to others. Those who were bred Roman Catholics might naturally be supposed to wish for a prince of their own persuasion to reign over them. But, good God! for Protestants to think of being governed by a Popish prince, what an absurdity! Do not we know that it is one great maxim in the Roman Catholic religion, to keep no faith with heretics? And what sort of treatment could Protestants expect from a prince whose religion teaches him that there is no salvation without the pale of his own church, and consequently that his subjects are doomed to everlasting perdition?

Power is a fascinating thing; and princes in general are apt enough to stretch it to the utmost. This being the common case, it can be little matter of wonder that a Popish prince should be an absolute tyrant over that subject whom he considers as already reprobated by heaven!

From the guilty madness and horrid fate of the unhappy malefactors before us, let us learn gratitude to heaven for the reformation, which relieved us from the errors and blindness of Popery: let us be thankful that the laws of our country have  
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JOHN HAMILTON, Esq.—for *Murder*. 221

established that régál succession of a family educated in the rational doctrines of the Protestant religion, a religion that, while it seeks heaven by the ready road, allows full liberty of conscience to all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own minds.

We have no more right to quarrel with a MAN for differing from us in sentiments, than for the colour of his eye-brows: but Britons should be cautious never to think of admitting a SOVEREIGN to rule over them whose difference of faith may tempt him to invade their liberties, civil or religious!



Account of JOHN HAMILTON, Esq. who was tried in *Scotland* for *Murder*, and beheaded.

**T**HIS offender was born in the county of Clydesdale, and was related to the ducal family of Hamilton. His parents, to whom he was an only son, sent him to Glasgow to study the law; but the young gentleman's disposition leading him to the profession of arms, his friends exerted their interest to procure a commission, but the intervention of the crime of which we are about to relate the particulars, prevented their generous intention taking effect.

Young Hamilton soon becoming connected with some abandoned young gentleman at Edinburgh, he lost considerable sums at gaming; and going to his parents for more, they supplied him for the present, but said they would not advance him any farther sums while he continued his dissipated course of life.

Being possessed of this money, Hamilton went to a village near Glasgow, to meet his companions

at

at a public-house kept by Thomas Arkle. Having drunk and gamed for several successive days and nights, Hamilton's companions left him while he was asleep, leaving him to discharge the bill, which exceeding his ability, a quarrel ensued between him and Arkle, and while they contended, Arkle stripped Hamilton's sword from the scabbard. The latter immediately ran away, but finding he had no scabbard to his sword, he instantly went back to the house, when Arkle calling him several scandalous names, he stabbed him so that he instantly expired.

The daughter of Arkle being present, attempted to seize Hamilton; in doing which she tore off the skirt of his coat, which was left on the floor, together with his sword, on his effecting a second escape. This daughter of Arkle was almost blind; but her keeping the sword, and the skirt of the coat, proved the means of bringing Hamilton to justice.

The murderer having gone to Leith, embarked on board a ship, and landed in Holland, where he continued two years; but his parents dying in the interval, he returned to Scotland, when he was taken into custody on account of the murder.

On his trial, he pleaded that he was intoxicated at the time the fact was committed; to which he was instigated by the extreme ill-usage he had received from Arkle. The jury, not allowing the force of these arguments, found him guilty, and he was sentenced to be beheaded by the MAIDEN, to give a description of which instrument may be grateful to our readers.

The town of Halifax in Yorkshire having been antiently famous for the manufacture of woollen cloths, a law was made for the protection of the property of the manufacturers, by which it was  
ordained

ordained that persons convicted for stealing cloth from the tenter-grounds, should be executed immediately after being convicted before two justices of the peace\*.

The machine by which persons thus convicted were executed, was constructed in the following manner: “Two strong wooden beams were fixed  
“ on a scaffold, and between them, in a transverse  
“ form, ran another beam, to the lower side of  
“ which was fixed a sharp instrument in the form  
“ of a chopping-knife, with a large quantity of  
“ lead on the upper part. The criminal put his  
“ neck between the two side-beams, and the  
“ cross-beam being drawn by a pulley, was suf-  
“ fered to fall down; and the head was severed  
“ from the body in a moment.”

The earl of Morton, regent of Scotland, returning from the court of Queen Elizabeth in the year 1574, saw this machine at Halifax, and had a model taken of it, with a view to the execution of such of the Scottish nobility as should oppose his measures; but it happened that his lordship was the first who suffered by this mode of execution: whence it was called the MAIDEN.

After this many persons of rank in Scotland were executed by this machine; but Mr. Hamilton, of whom we are now writing, was the last who yielded his life in this manner; and the instrument of death is now kept in a room adjacent to the council-chamber of Edinburgh.

After

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\* Whatever necessity there might appear for enacting the law in question, we cannot but lament that any Englishman should suffer without the formality of a trial by jury.

After Mr. Hamilton received sentence of death, his friends made great interest to procure a pardon; but their endeavours proving ineffectual, he suffered death, by the mode abovementioned, on the 30th of June, 1716.

At the place of execution he owned that he had killed Arkle, but presumed to think he was justified on the principle of self-defence.

Mr. Hamilton's case will teach us to reflect on the sad consequences of keeping bad company, and an attachment to gaming. But for these vices, he might have lived happy in himself, and a credit to the worthy family from which he was descended. The youth who will devote those hours to the gaming-table, which he ought to employ in the honest advancement of his fortune, can expect only to be reduced to beggary at the best: but in a thousand instances, as well as the present, the consequences have been much more fatal.

Hence let young gentleman learn to shun the gaming-table as they would a pestilence; to proceed in the plain path of honour and integrity, and to know that there can be no true happiness in a departure from the line of virtue!



Account of the Life of JAMES GOODMAN,  
who was hanged at *Tyburn* for *Horse-Stealing*.

**T**HIS offender, who was about thirty-two years of age at the time of his unhappy exit, was a native of Little Harwood, in Buckinghamshire, and served his time to a carpenter at Aylesbury. After he was out of his time, he and two other young men agreed to have a veni-



son pasty, and make mery; in consequence of which they stole a deer; but being taken into custody, one of them turned evidence, whereupon Goodman and the other were imprisoned a year in Aylesbury gaol.

After his enlargement he married and entered into business, which he carried on with success for about nine years; but becoming fond of idle company, he was soon so reduced in circumstances that he brought himself and family to ruin.

Coming to London, he got into company with one Stephens, with whom he agreed to commit robberies on the highway. Pursuant to this plan they stopped Philip White, between Stratford and Ilford in Essex, and robbed him of his horse, one shilling, and his spurs.

Four days after this robbery Mr. White saw Goodman on his horse at Bow, in the company of Stephens, who was likewise on horseback. Hereupon Mr. White sent his servant to demand the horse; on which the robbers galloped off, but were immediately pursued by Mr. White and his man. Finding themselves hard pressed, they quit- ted their horses, and ran into the field: on which Mr. White gave his servant a gun, and bid him follow them. He did so: on which one of them fired twice, and said, "d—n it, we'll kill or be killed; we won't be taken alive: our lives are as good as theirs." On this Mr. White's ser- vant fired his gun, which was loaded with pebble stones; and striking Goodman on the head, he was so stunned that he was easily taken; and some other persons now coming up, one of them drew a hanger and pursued Stephens, who submitting after a short resistance, both the prisoners were conveyed to Newgate.

Stephens having been admitted an evidence against Goodman, the latter was brought to his trial, when he endeavoured to prove that he was in another place when the robbery was committed, and that he had purchased Mr. White's horse: but the jury found him guilty, as they did not believe the testimony of his witnesses.

After conviction he was put into the bail-dock, in order to receive sentence: but the night being dark, and being assisted by some other prisoners, he got over the spikes, and, though he was loaded with irons, effected his escape.

But it was not long before he was re-taken, owing to a very singular circumstance. While in custody, he delivered some money to a carrier to take into the country to a woman with whom he had cohabited; but the carrier, considering his situation, kept the money for his own use.

Wherefore, about a month after his escape, Goodman went to an alehouse in Holborn, and sent for a lawyer, to concert with him how to recover the money of the carrier: but some persons in the house happening to know him, went to Newgate, and informed the keepers where he was; on which he was taken into custody, after a desperate resistance; and at the end of the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he received sentence of death.

While he lay in this deplorable situation he acknowledged his guilt, confessed he had committed many robberies, lamented the iniquities of his past life, and wished he could make reparation to those whom he had injured. He was executed at Tyburn on the 12th of March, 1716.

The fate of this malefactor will afford an useful lesson to persons somewhat advanced in life. After having been nine years in a successful business,

ness, the keeping of bad company induced him to his ruin. Hence we may learn the folly of departing from the sober comforts of domestic felicity, to keep company with drunkards, and riot in debauchery. The circumstance of Goodman's being seen at Bow, on the very horse he had stolen but a few days before, on the same road, shews the folly that, almost in every instance, attends thieves. They are generally detected by some omission or carelessness of their own, which even a child would blush to be guilty of: but the fact is, that villany is frequently off its guard, and the eye of Providence is ever watchful to bring the guilty to justice.

This doctrine cannot be set in a clearer light, than by Goodman's going to advise with a lawyer how to recover the money of the carrier; not reflecting that he himself was a dead man, in the eye of the law, at the very time of making this application, which led so soon to his own destruction. Hence we see the emphatical force of that text of scripture, "The wicked is taken in his own snare."



Narrative of the Case of JOSEPH STILL, who was hanged at *Stamford-hill*, for *Murder*.

**T**HIS man came to London in search of a livelihood, and for some time maintained himself by selling poultry in the streets; but growing weary of that employment, he enlisted into the army, in which he continued nine years; but having obtained his discharge, he became acquainted with a set of thieves who committed depredations in the neighbourhood of London; and

being apprehended, he was tried at the Old Bailey, and whipped.

Soon after he obtained his liberty, he returned to his former way of life; and being taken into custody in Hertfordshire, he was tried, convicted, and punished by burning in the hand. After this he began the practice of robbing higlers on the highway, and he obtained the appellation of Chicken Joe, from his singular dexterity in that employment.

After continuing in this way of life a considerable time, he commenced footpad, and committed a great number of robberies on the roads near town, escaping detection for a long while, on account of his wearing a mask over his face.

At length almost all his companions were hanged, and he was reduced to such distress that he went once more on the road, to supply himself with the means of procuring the necessaries of life. Having drank at an alehouse in Kingsland-road till his spirits were somewhat elevated, he proceeded to Stoke-Newington, and after sauntering a while in the fields, without meeting with any person whom he durst venture to attack, he went into Queen Elizabeth's walk, behind the church, where he saw a gentleman's servant, whose money he demanded. The servant being determined not to be robbed, contested the matter with Still, and a battle ensuing, the villain drew a knife, and stabbed the footman through the body.

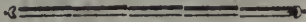
He immediately ran away: but some people coming by while the footman was sensible enough to tell them what had happened, Still was pursued, taken, and brought to the spot where the other was expiring; and being searched, the bloody knife with which he had committed the deed was found in his pocket. The man died,  
after

MARQUIS OF PALEOTTI—for *Murder*. 229

after declaring that Still was the murderer ; and the latter was committed to Newgate ; and being indicted at the Old Bailey, the jury did not scruple to find him guilty ; in consequence of which he received sentence of death, and was executed on Stamford-hill, on the 22d of March, 1717.

The progression of this malefactor seems to have been very gradual, from smaller to greater crimes, till at length his life paid the forfeit for one of the most enormous. Hence let us be taught the danger of indulging the least propensity to an evil act. The commission of one crime naturally leads to that of another, till the criminal is involved in distress and misery, from which there is no hope of relief !

Learn then to tread in honour's path,  
Nor quit the laws of God ;  
So may you hope to 'scape his wrath,  
Nor dread his vengeful rod.



Account of FERDINANDO, Marquis de PALEOTTI, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for the *Murder* of his Servant.

THE marquis de Paleotti was born at Bologna in Italy, and in the reign of queen Anne was a colonel in the Imperial army.

The cause of his coming to England arose from the following circumstance. The duke of Shrewsbury being at Rome in the latter end of King William's reign, fell in love with, and paid his addresses to, the sister of Paleotti ; and the lady following the duke to Augsburg in Germany, they

they were there married, after she had first renounced the Roman Catholic religion. The dutchess residing with her husband in England, and the marquis having quitted the Imperial army, on the peace of Utrecht, he came to this country to see his sister.

Being fond of an extravagant course of life, and attached to gaming, he soon ran in debt for considerable sums. His sister paid his debts for some time, till she found it would be a burthenfome and endless task. Though she declined to assist him as usual, he continued his former course of life, till he was imprisoned for debt; but his sister privately procured his liberty, and he was discharged without knowing who had conferred the favour on him.

After his enlargement he adopted his old plan of extravagance; and being one day walking in the street, he directed his servant, an Italian, to go and borrow some money. The servant, having met with frequent denials, declined going; on which the marquis drew his sword, and killed him on the spot.

Being instantly apprehended, he was committed to prison, tried at the next sessions, and being convicted on full evidence, he received sentence of death. The duke of Shrewsbury being dead, and his duchess having little interest or acquaintance in England, it appears as if no endeavours were used to save the marquis, who suffered at Tyburn, on the 17th of March, 1718.

After sentence, he lamented that the churches of England did not afford a sanctuary to murderers, as those of Italy do; and he seemed to think it a great hardship that he should suffer death as a common malefactor, for murdering his servant.

Exclu-

Exclusive of this, his behaviour was extremely proper. He petitioned the Recorder that he might suffer alone, before the other malefactors; and the sheriff gave orders accordingly. When the day of execution drew near he wished to protract his term of life even for a few hours; but this was a favour that could not be granted, as the orders were positive; wherefore he was carried from Newgate to the place of execution soon after six in the morning, and having made a short speech in French, he delivered a letter to be given to his sister, in which he implored her pardon for the repeated trouble he had occasioned her.

The marquis of Paleotti seems to have fallen a sacrifice to his own ungovernable passions, joined to the prejudice of education. How absurd is that religion of Rome which permits the church to be the sanctuary of the murderer! and how thankful ought Protestants to be, that their lives cannot be taken away, and the murderer screened, through the chicanery of priestcraft. We deem the church the temple of the living God: and shall this temple be profaned by the protection of murderers? Strangeiy ridiculous is the idea!

From the fate of Paleotti and the late earl of Ferrers, we may learn that in the punishment of crimes of this enormous magnitude, the law makes no distinction between those of very exalted, and very inferior rank; and that the peer and the peasant must equally submit to its awards.

In this instance we see two reasons for being thankful that we are born in this land of liberty: our religion is purer, and our laws are more equitable than those of any people in the universe: While we are grateful to God for these bounties,  
may

may we be anxious to transmit them, unimpaired, to the latest posterity!

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Remarkable Case of JAMES SHEPPARD, who was executed at *Tyburn*, for *High-Treason*.

**T**HIS malefactor having been much the subject of public conversation, and his crime being of a very singular kind, we shall endeavour, in our account of him, to give every possible satisfaction to the reader.

James Sheppard was the son of Thomas Sheppard, a capital glover in Southwark; but his father dying when he was about five years of age, he was sent to school in Hertfordshire, whence his uncle, Dr. Hinchcliffe, removed him to Mitcham in Surry, and afterwards to Salisbury, where he remained at school three years. Being at Salisbury at the time of the rebellion, he imbibed the principles of his school-fellows, many of whom were favourers of the Pretender; and he was confirmed in his sentiments by reading some pamphlets which were then put into his hands.

When he quitted Salisbury, Dr. Hinchcliffe put him apprentice to Mr. Scott, a coach-painter, in Devonshire-street, near Bishopsgate; and he continued in this situation about fourteen months, when he was apprehended for the fact which cost him his life.

Sheppard having conceived the idea that it would be a praise-worthy action to kill the king, wrote a letter, which he intended for a nonjuring minister of the name of Leake; but mistaking the spelling, he directed it, "To the Reverend Mr. Heath."



“Heath.” This letter, a copy of which follows, he carried to Mr. Leake’s house.

“Sir,

FROM the many discontents visible throughout this kingdom, I infer, that if the prince now reigning could be by death removed, our king being here he might be settled on his throne, without much loss of blood. For the more ready effecting of this, I propose that if any gentleman will pay for my passage into Italy, and if our friends will intrust one so young with letters of invitation to his majesty, I will, on his arrival, smite the usurper in his palace. In this confusion, if sufficient forces may be raised, his majesty may appear; if not, he may retreat or conceal himself till a fitter opportunity. Neither is it presumptuous to hope that this may succeed, if we consider how easy it is to cut the thread of human life; how great confusion the death of a prince occasions in the most peaceful nation, and how mutinous the people are, how desirous of a change. - But we will suppose the worst, that I am seized, and by torture examined. Now that this may endanger none but myself, it will be necessary that the gentleman who defrays my charges to Italy leave England before my departure; that I be ignorant of his majesty’s abode; that I lodge with some whig; that you abscond, and that this be communicated to none. But be the event as it will, I can expect nothing less than a most cruel death; which that I may the better support, it will be requisite that, from my arrival till the attempt, I every day receive the holy sacrament from one who shall be ignorant of the design.

JAMES SHEPPARD.”

Mr. Leake was absent when this letter arrived, but on his return he read it; on which he said to his daughter and maid-servant that it was a most villainous letter, and not fit to be kept; and, in the height of his resentment, he threw it into the fire, and went up into his study; but coming down soon afterwards, his daughter told him that she had recollected that the boy who had brought the letter said he would call for an answer on the following Monday.

Hereupon Mr. Leake determined to make the affair known to Sir John Fryer, a neighbouring magistrate, which he did the following morning; when Sir John advised him to take the party into custody when he should return for the answer. Sheppard came at the time that he had promised; when Mr. Leake sent for a constable and had him apprehended.

Being carried before Sir John Fryer, he was asked if he had delivered a letter at Mr. Leake's on the preceding Friday, directed to the Rev. Mr. Heath. He answered in the affirmative; and being asked if he had a copy of that letter; he said he had no copy about him, but he believed he could remember it, so as to write a copy. This being done, and he having deliberately read and signed what he had written, was committed to the Compter.

Three gentlemen were now sent to the house of the prisoner's master, and being shewn his trunk, they found, among some other papers, a copy of the letter he had left at Mr. Leake's, which differed very little from that written at Sir John Fryer's, only that these words were added: "How  
" meritorious an act will it be to free these nations  
" from an usurpation that they have lain under  
" these nine and twenty years;" and it was insinuated

nuated that he thought it requisite, that while his majesty (the Pretender) should be absent from Avignon, “some person should be found resembling him, that should personate him there, lest the rumour of his departure from Avignon should awaken this inquisitive and suspicious court.”

Soon after Sheppard’s commitment he was twice examined at the office of lord Sunderland, then secretary of state; when he attempted to justify his conduct, and readily signed what he had before written.

When he was brought to his trial, he behaved in the most firm and composed manner; and after the evidence against him was given, and the jury had brought him in guilty of high-treason, he was asked why sentence should not be passed on him according to law, when he said, “He could not hope for mercy from a prince whom he would not own.” Then the recorder proceeded to pass sentence on him, which he prefaced with the following most pathetic speech:

“James Sheppard, you are convicted according to law of the greatest offence against human authority, high-treason, in compassing and imagining the death of the king. Your intent was to kill, to murder, and basely assassinate his majesty king George, in order to place a Popish pretender on his throne.

“It is very surprising that one so young in years should attempt so wicked an enterprize; and it is more amazing that you should still thus defend and justify it, and not only think that there is no harm in it, but that the action if committed would have been meritorious.

“ It was reasonable to think that you had re-  
 “ ceived those impressions which incited you to  
 “ this undertaking from some of those false and  
 “ malicious libels which have been industriously  
 “ dispersed to delude unwary readers, and to  
 “ alienate the minds of his majesty’s subjects;  
 “ and it appears to be so from your own confession,  
 “ that you had imbibed your principles from  
 “ sermons and pamphlets, which make you think  
 “ king George an usurper, and the Pretender your  
 “ lawful king.

“ Consider, unhappy young man, whether  
 “ you may not be in an error; and what I now  
 “ suggest to you is not to reproach you, or to  
 “ aggravate your crime, but proceeds from com-  
 “ passion, and with a regard to your further con-  
 “ sideration before you go out of the world; that  
 “ you may be convinced of your error, and re-  
 “ tract it.

“ The notions you entertain are contrary to  
 “ the sense of the nation; who found by expe-  
 “ rience, that their religion, their laws and liber-  
 “ ties were in imminent danger from a Popish  
 “ prince, and therefore they rescued themselves  
 “ from that danger, and excluded Papists for the  
 “ future from the crown; and settled it on his  
 “ majesty and his heirs, being Protestants; which  
 “ has been confirmed by many parliaments, and  
 “ the nation feels the good effects of so happy an  
 “ establishment.

“ It seems strange, that you should hint at a  
 “ passage in St. Paul for your justification. If  
 “ he exhorted the Christians to submit to the  
 “ Roman emperors, even though they should be  
 “ tyrants, how comes it that you, a private youth,  
 “ should not only judge of the title of kings, in  
 “ oppo-

“ opposition to the sense of so many parliaments ;  
 “ but that you should think yourself authorized  
 “ to murder a prince in peaceable possession of the  
 “ throne, and by whom his subjects are protected  
 “ in the enjoyment of all their rights and privi-  
 “ leges, and of every thing that is dear and valu-  
 “ able to mankind.

“ You mention in your papers as you must  
 “ expect the most cruel tortures. No, unfortunate  
 “ youth, the king you will not own uses no cruel  
 “ tortures to his subjects. He is king according  
 “ to the laws of the land, and by them he governs,  
 “ and as you have transgressed those laws in the  
 “ highest degree, the public justice requires that you  
 “ should submit to the sentence ordained for such  
 “ an offender, which is,

“ That you be led from hence to the place from  
 “ whence you came ; from thence you are to be  
 “ drawn upon a hurdle to the place of execution.  
 “ and there you are to be hanged by the neck, and  
 “ being alive to be cut down, your bowels to be  
 “ taken out of your belly, and there burnt, you  
 “ being alive : your head is to be cut off, and  
 “ your body to be divided into four quarters, and  
 “ your head and quarters to be disposed of as his  
 “ majesty shall think fit. And God Almighty  
 “ have mercy on your soul.”

After sentence was passed, Sheppard confessed that the reading some sermons, and other pamphlets, had induced him to think that it would be a meritorious act to kill the king ; and that he was convinced he was the agent destined by Providence to accomplish the deed. The ordinary of Newgate told him, that he should have prayed that such wicked sentiments might be removed  
 from

from his mind. His reply was, that "he had  
 " prayed; and that in proportion as he prayed, he  
 " was so much the more encouraged and con-  
 " firmed in the lawfulness of his design."

The unhappy youth was now visited by a non-juring clergyman, between whom and the ordinary there were repeated quarrels, which continued almost to the last moments of Sheppard's life; for they wrangled even at the place of execution; nor did the debate cease till the ordinary quitted the cart, and left the other to instruct and pray with the malefactor as he thought proper.

Sheppard was executed at Tyburn on the 17th of March, 1718, a few hours after the fatal exit of the marquis of Palcotti.

To what reflections we have made at the close of our narratives respecting the persons executed on account of the rebellion, little need be said in this place, since the conduct of all the parties seem to have been animated by the same motive; the wish, the absurd wish, to place a Roman Catholic prince to reign over a Protestant people.

On Sheppard's being first taken into custody; many people were of opinion that he was a lunatic; but the calm coolness of his subsequent conduct is a full proof to the contrary: he seems to have acted upon principle, from the force of conviction. Hence, then, we ought to detest the doctrines of those who could teach that it was lawful to commit murder; murder of the most aggravated kind; the destruction of a king who succeeded to the throne by legal right, and ruled on the principles of justice and equity.

It is needless to inform those who are at all read in history that these kingdoms were never governed with so mild a sway as since the accession of the illustrious house of Hanover to the  
 throne

throne of these realms; and Providence seems to have promised, by the singular encrease of his majesty's family, a perpetuation of the crown in the Brunswick line for a succession of ages. That it may be for a long succession will be the ardent prayer of all those who wish well to the civil and religious rights of mankind!

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Account of the Trial and Execution of JOHN PRICE, otherwife JACK KETCH, who was hanged for *Murder*; with some Particulars of his Life.

JOHN Price was indicted at the Old Bailey on the 24th of April, 1718, for the murder of Elizabeth, the wife of William White, on the 13th of the preceding month.

In the course of the evidence it appeared that Price met the deceased near ten at night in Moorfields, and attempted to ravish her; but the poor woman (who was the wife of a watchman, and sold gingerbread in the streets) doing all in her power to resist his villainous attacks, he beat her so cruelly that streams of blood issued from her eyes and mouth, broke one of her arms, beat out some of her teeth, bruised her head in a most dreadful manner, forced one of her eyes from the socket, and otherwife so ill-treated her that the language of decency cannot describe it.

Some persons, hearing the cries of the unhappy creature, repaired to the spot, took Price into custody, and lodged him in the watch-house; and conveyed the woman to a house, where a surgeon and nurse were sent for to attend her. Being unable to speak, she answered the nurse's questions  
by

by signs, and in that manner described what had happened to her. She died, after having languished four days.

The prisoner, on his trial, denied being guilty of the fact; and said, that as he was crossing Moorfields, he found something lying in his way; that he kicked at it, but discovering that it was a woman, he lifted her up, but she could not stand on her legs; and he said that he was taken into custody while he was thus employed. This defence, however, could not be credited, from what some former evidences had sworn; and the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty.

After sentence of death was passed on him, he abandoned himself to the drinking of spiritous liquors,\* to such a degree as rendered him totally incapable of all the exercises of devotion. He obstinately denied the fact till the day of his execution, when he confessed that he had been guilty of it; but said that the crime was perpetrated when he was in a state of intoxication. He was executed in Bunhill-fields, on the 31st of May, 1718, and in his last moments, begged the prayers of the multitude, and hoped they would take warning by his untimely end. He was afterwards hung in chains near Holloway.

This offender was born in the parish of St. Martin in the Fields, and while he was very young his father was blown up at the demolishing of Tangier. His mother being left in circumstances of distress, was not able to give him a proper education; but she put him apprentice to a dealer in rags. Having served about two years, his master

died,

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\* Since the fate of this man, we have had a law to prevent the carrying spiritous liquors into prisons.



died, and he soon afterwards ran away from his mistress, and got employment in loading waggons with rags for other dealers. After this he went to sea, and served on board several ships in the royal navy for the space of about eighteen years; but at length he was paid off, and discharged from the service.

The place of public executioner becoming vacant by death, he accepted of it, and might have continued in it but for his own extravagance; for spending more money than his income, he ran in debt; and one day, as he was returning from an execution at Tyburn, he was arrested in Holborn for a trifling sum. However, he discharged this debt, and the cost, partly with a small sum of money he had in his pocket, and partly by the produce of three suits of cloaths, which he had taken from the bodies of poor wretches who had been that day executed.

Soon after this two other writs were taken out against him, when having no money, nor being able to procure bail, he was obliged to go to the Marshalsea Prison, where he continued till after the following sessions at the Old Bailey, when William Marvel was appointed executioner in his stead. Having continued some time longer in the Marshalsea, he and a fellow-prisoner broke a hole in the wall, through which they made their escape: and soon after this, Price committed the horrid murder for which his life paid the forfeit.

One would imagine that the dreadful scenes of calamity to which this man had been witness, if they had not taught him humanity, would at least have given him wisdom enough not to have perpetrated a crime that must necessarily bring him to

a similar fatal end to what he had so often seen of others: but perhaps his profession tended rather to harden his mind otherwise.

The murder of which Price was guilty appears to have been one of the most barbarous and unprovoked we ever remember to have read of: and his pretence that he was drunk when he perpetrated it, was no sort of excuse; since drunkenness itself is a crime, and one which frequently leads to the commission of others.

The lesson to be learnt from the fate of this man is to moderate our passions of every kind; and to live by the rules of temperance and sobriety. We are told, from the best authority, that "hands that shed innocent blood are an abomination to the Lord."

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Narrative of the Case of Mr. EDWARD BIRD, who was executed for Murder.

MR. BIRD was born at Windsor, in Berkshire, and descended of respectable parents, who having first sent him to Westminster School, then removed him to Eton College. When he had finished his studies he was sent to make the tour of France and Italy, and on his return to England was honoured with the commission of a lieutenant in a regiment of horse.

Before he had been long in the army he began to associate with abandoned company of both sexes, which finally led to the commission of the crime which cost him his life.

On the 10th of January, 1719, he was indicted at the Old Bailey for the murder of Samuel Loxton. It appeared on his trial, that he had  
taken

taken a woman of the town to a bagnio in Silverstreet, where Loxton was a waiter. Early in the morning he ordered a bath to be got ready; but Loxton being busy, sent another waiter, at whom Bird, in a fit of passion, made several passes with his sword, which he avoided by holding the door in his hand: but the prisoner ran after him, threw him down stairs, and broke some of his ribs. On this, the master and mistress of the house and Loxton went into the room, and attempted to appease him: but Bird, enraged that the bath had not been prepared the moment he ordered it, seized his sword, which lay by the bed-side, and stabbing Loxton, he fell backwards, and died immediately; on which the offender was taken into custody, and committed to Newgate.

He was to have been tried in October, but pleading that he was not ready with his defence, the trial was put off to December; and then till January, on his physicians making affidavit that he was too ill to be removed from his chamber.

Being convicted on the clearest evidence, he received sentence of death; but great interest being made in his behalf, he was reprieved, and it was thought he would have been pardoned, on condition of transportation, but for the intervention of the following circumstance.

The friends of Loxton hearing that a reprieve was granted, advised his widow to lodge an appeal at the bar of the court of King's-Bench; and she went thither with some friends, to give security for that purpose; but the relations of Bird hearing what was intended, were ready in court, with witnesses to depose that this was the second wife of Loxton, his first being still living. This be-

ing the fact, the court refused to admit the appeal, as the second could not be a lawful wife.

This affair occasioned so much clamour that Bird was ordered for execution on Monday the 23d of February; on the night preceding which he took a dose of poison; but that not operating as he had expected, he stabbed himself in several places. Yet, however, he lived till the morning, when he was taken to Tyburn in a mourning coach, attended by his mother, and the Ordinary of Newgate.

As he had paid little attention to the instructions of the Ordinary while under confinement, so he seemed equally indifferent to his advice in the last moments of his life. Being indulged to stay an hour in the coach with his mother, he was put into the cart, where he asked for a glass of wine; but being told it could not be had, he begged a pinch of snuff, which he took with apparent unconcern, wishing health to those who stood near him. He then rehearsed the apostle's creed, and being tied up, was launched into eternity, on the above-mentioned 23d of February, 1719.

He was executed in the 27th year of his age. He declined making any speech, but delivered the following paper to his friends the day before his execution.

“ **I**T will be expected that I shall say something at this time, as to the fact I am going to suffer for.

I do not pretend to say, I did not kill the deceased; but humbly conceive, that both the laws of God and man will justify self-defence; which I call God to witness, into whose arms of mercy I am now going to throw myself, was my case.

Unhappy

Unhappy is that gentleman who falls into such hands; for there was not one evidence for the king that was not manifestly perjured, as I have faithfully set forth in my printed case, with all the justice a person expecting nothing less than death was capable of. And it is also as evident, that the proper evidences on my side were never called: I wish I could persuade myself that mismanagement did not proceed from the infidelity of my attorney, employed on my trial: for it appears but too evident, that he never made one regular step towards my interest; and, I wish I could aver that he did not arm my enemies against me.

After all this, his Majesty, in his great wisdom, thought fit to grant me a reprieve, and ordered me for transportation; but the restless malice of my enemies would not fix here.

The pretended widow of the deceased lodges an appeal against me. How she had a right so to do, I leave those gentlemen learned in the law to determine: yet this, with her fallacious petition, found entrance to the Royal Fountain, and turned that former stream of mercy from me; causing his majesty to recede from his first decree of mercy, and order my execution: under which sentence I still, with all humility, submit.

Another reflection, I am credibly informed, is cast upon me, in order to make my load the greater: which is, that I was frequently visited, during my confinement, and even since my conviction, by lewd and infamous women. I cannot say that I have not been visited by divers women; but do not know them to be such: some of them were relations, and other persons, who had business with me relating to my unhappy circumstances. What cannot malice invent.

There

There is one thing more which I omitted in my printed case, relating to my adversary's evidence; deposing, that the deceased Loxton fell without the door: which I declare solemnly, is utterly false; for what was done was in the room; I was not off from my bed when the accident happened: and when he dropped, he fell backwards upon the bed.

I might take notice of many more false aspersions, but will omit them; having, I thank my God, forgiven them all.

In the next place, it will be expected that I say something of my religion.

I declare, that I die a Protestant, and of the communion of the church of England, whose doctrine teaches me to forgive my enemies, which sincerely I do: humbly begging, at the same time that all those, who through inadvertency, heat of blood, or any juvenile folly, I have offended, will do the same to me.

As for the manifold reflections cast upon me since my confinement; the pretended widow's violent prosecution; the Farrier's notoriously false affidavit, and all other offences committed against me, I heartily forgive them.

And to conclude, I wish all gentlemen would only weigh the fatal cause of my unhappy exit, and avoid all such houses where the scene of this misfortune was first laid: let me be an example to them, to avoid those rocks I have split upon; that they may, with less difficulty than I have found it, be able to compose their thoughts, (which I thank God I have done) through the assistance of his divine Spirit, and sink into a willing resignation of his divine will.

EDWARD BIRD.

This

This unfortunate youth seems to have fallen a sacrifice to the irregularity and violence of his own passions: to the pride of his heart, and his love of lawless pleasure. Hence let the youth who read this be taught to walk in the plain paths of sobriety and discretion, “neither turning aside to the right hand nor the left.” His taking poison and stabbing himself, to defeat the execution of the law, is a strong proof of that pride of heart we have mentioned. He could be guilty of a crime deserving the utmost ignominy, but dreaded to sustain it. Humility, then, is another doctrine to be learned from the fate of this man.

The situation of Bird’s mother, in her attending him to Tyburn, must have been dreadful beyond all expression! Mr. Bird had been well educated, and ought to have made a different return to the care of his parents. Women in general, however, should consider that it is by a religious education that the mind of the child is most likely to be guarded from the contaminations of vice. The sacred maxim will hold good in most instances: “train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart therefrom.”

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Singular Case of CATHERINE JONES, who was tried for Bigamy, and acquitted.

CATHERINE JONES was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 5th of September, 1719, for marrying Constantine Boone, during the life of her former husband, John Rowland.

Proof

Proof was made that she was married to Rowland, in the year 1713, at a house in the Mint, Southwark, and that six years afterwards, while her husband was abroad, she was again married, in the same house, to Constantine Boone; but Rowland, soon returning to England, caused his wife to be indicted for this crime.

The prisoner did not hesitate to acknowledge the double marriage, but insisted that the latter was illegal, as Boone was an hermaphrodite, and had been shewn as such at Southwark and Bartholomew fairs, and at other places.

To prove this a person swore that he knew Boone when a child, that his (or *her*) mother dressed *it* in girls apparel, and caused it to be instructed in needle-work, till it had attained the age of twelve years, when it *turned man, and went to sea.*

These last words were those of the deposition; and the fact was confirmed by Boone, who appeared in court, acknowledged being an hermaphrodite, and having been publicly shewn in that character.

Other witnesses deposed that the female sex prevailed over that of the male in the party in question: on which the jury acquitted the prisoner.

It is impossible to describe how much this affair was the subject of the public conversation at, and long after, the time that it happened: and it would be idle to make any serious remarks on it. We can only express our astonishment that an hermaphrodite should think of such a glaring absurdity as the taking a wife!



Narrative of the Trial and Execution of JOHN MATTHEWS, a Printer, who was hanged for High-Treason.

JOHN MATTHEWS was the son of a printer in Aldersgate-Street, to whom he was apprenticed; but his father dying, he continued to serve with his mother. Having made connections with some persons of Jacobitical principles, he printed some papers against the government, for which he was once taken into custody; but the evidence being incomplete, he was dismissed.

Encouraged by this escape, he was induced to print a pamphlet, entitled “*Ex ore tuo te Judico: Vox populi, vox Dei* \*.” For this offence he was brought to his trial, on the 30th of October, 1719, when it appeared that he had composed the pages of the pamphlet in question, but locked them up, lest they should be found, and made use of to his prejudice.

An elder brother of Matthews, apprehending that the youth might endanger himself by his propensity to the printing such pamphlets, directed a journeyman, named Lawrence Vezey, to lock up the door of the printing-house every night, and bring him the key: but Vezey, like a villain as he was, first suffered the young fellow to print the supposed treasonable matter, and then gave evidence against him.

A general warrant being granted by the secretary of state, for the search of Mrs. Matthews's

\* That is, “*Out of thy own mouth will I judge thee:—The Voice of the People is the Voice of God.*”

house, the officers of government found a number of the supposed libel in a room which the prisoner acknowledged to belong to him; on which he was carried before the secretary of state, who committed him to Newgate, on his refusing to give up the author.

When Matthews was arraigned at the bar, Vezey swore that the prisoner brought the form, containing part of the book, to the press, and bid him pull a proof of it; which he did, and that the prisoner afterwards came down to him, and said that the pages had been transposed, but he had now put them right; and he then pulled him another proof; he said that then the prisoner desired this evidence to come early in the morning to work off the sheets, saying that he himself would take care of the paper, and that every thing should be ready.

Accordingly Vezey went early one morning, intending to call up William Harper, the apprentice; but the prisoner came to the door, let him in, and called Harper, who assisted Vezey in working off the sheets, Matthews standing by, and taking them from the press, for the greater expedition: and when the work was done the prisoner paid Vezey for his trouble. This evidence was likewise confirmed by Harper, as far as he was concerned in the transaction, and he added that he saw the prisoner composing the matter \* from the manuscript copy.

The council for the crown exerted their utmost

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\* "Composing the matter" is a term with printers, which signifies picking up the letters, and arranging them in proper order for their being worked off by the printing-presses.

abilities to aggravate the crime of the prisoner, and the king's messengers swearing to as much as they knew of the affair, Matthews was found guilty, and sentence of death was passed on him.

After condemnation he was attended by the Reverend Mr. Skerrett, who also accompanied him to the place of execution. His whole behaviour after sentence was such as might be expected from one who had too much sense to expect favour from the people then in power: for it was not customary with the ministers of George the first to extend mercy to persons convicted of treasonable offences: but perhaps their seeming want of humanity will appear the more excusable, if we reflect on the fatal consequences that might have ensued from the rebellion in 1715.

But nothing can excuse the method they took to obtain evidence in this case. It is but of late years that the issuing of general warrants has been legally condemned; and Englishmen are not a little obliged to a man, who (whatever his faults may be) has procured the condemnation of these warrants. Happily, we can now sit quietly, and write our sentiments in our own houses, without being liable to have our papers seized by the arbitrary mandates of a secretary of state. While we recollect that we are obliged for this favour in a great degree to the perseverance of Mr. Wilkes, we should not forget that the judicial determination of Lord Camden perfected the plan so happily begun, and so steadily pursued.

The above-mentioned John Matthews was executed at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1719, before he had completed the 19th year of his age; and was pitied by every one who had not lost the common feelings of humanity.

From the fate of Matthews young gentlemen in the same line of business should be taught to be cautious how they engage in the printing of political pamphlets; for though, to the credit of the good sense and humanity of the present age, there is now much less danger than there formerly was, yet recent experience has taught us that great trouble and expence may ensue, where all risk of life is out of the question.

We should all pray that we may live to see the time when the liberty of the press will be established in its fullest extent; and when no villain will dare to be guilty of an atrocious action, but some honest man shall dare to tell him of it in public. By this, however, we do not mean to encourage the *licentiousness* of the press—Detested be the heart that should dictate, and the hand that should write a line to destroy domestic happiness, or corrode the mind of one worthy individual: but the public villain should be ever held up an object of the public scorn and censure!

Account of the Life and Trial of THOMAS BUTLER, Esq. who was executed for a Robbery on the Highway.

**M**R. BUTLER was a native of Ireland; his father being an officer in the army of king James the second; but king William having defeated that prince at the battle of the Boyne, young Butler and his father went with James to France: but when the rebellion broke out in Scotland the young gentleman was employed as a  
spy

spy in the family of the duke of Ormond, for which he was allowed 20l. a year: but he hereby lost the favour of his friends and relations, who espoused a different interest. From Paris he went to Holland, where he soon spent most of the money in his possession, and then embarked for England.

On his arrival in this country he commenced highwayman, and went out frequently in company with a man whom he called Jack, and who occasionally acted as his servant; and they jointly committed a great number of robberies near London, particularly in Kent and Essex.

When they were in London, and sometimes in a country town, they had the genteelest lodgings, and then Jack wore a livery, while the 'Squire was dressed in a most elegant manner, and had all the appearance of a man of fortune.

By this style of living they continued their depredations on the highway for some years; but Butler being at length apprehended, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, in January, 1720, when he was indicted for robbing Sir Justinian Isham and another gentleman on the highway, of a gold watch, a silk night-gown, six Holland shirts, and other valuable articles; and was convicted on the clearest evidence.

The circumstance that led to his detection, was, that offering some of the effects for sale to a jeweller, he refused to purchase them unless he knew Butler's place of residence, which the latter readily told him; and when his lodgings were searched, Sir Justinian's gown was found, and was produced in court. Butler's companion, or servant, was in Ireland at the time of his detection, by which he escaped the fate he had deserved.

While

While Mr. Butler lay under sentence of death, he behaved in a very penitent manner. Being a Roman Catholic, he received the sacrament from a priest of his own persuasion. It had been reported that he had eight wives; but this he solemnly denied, declaring that he was legally married to only one woman.

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of February, 1720, at the age of 42 years.

There are few highwaymen who have lived in such a style of elegance as Butler; and by his mode of proceeding he eluded justice for a considerable time, as he used to dress in black velvet, laced ruffles, and all the other apparatus of a gentleman. Yet justice at last found him out, and detected him while in the full career of his wickedness.

Hence let those who are tempted to the commission of acts of illegality, learn that the steps of justice, though they may be slow, are sure; that it is almost impossible for guilt to escape detection, and that vengeance is the more terrible the longer it is dreaded, and the longer it is delayed.

Amidst all those gaities of life that may be procured by fraudulent means, the heart must be perpetually corroded by grief, and agitated by fear. The life of honesty is the only life of peace or safety. Let us never forget to "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God."

Account of WILLIAM SPIGGOT and THOMAS PHILLIPS, who were hanged for robbing on the Highway.

AT the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of January, 1720, William Spiggot and Thomas Phillips were indicted for committing several robberies on the highway; but they refused to plead, unless the effects taken from them when they were apprehended were returned: but this being directly contrary to an act of the 4th and 5th year of king William and queen Mary, entitled, “An act for encouraging the apprehending of highwaymen,” the court informed them, that their demand could not be complied with.

Still, however, they refused to plead, and no arguments could convince them of the absurdity of such an obstinate procedure: on which the court ordered, that the judgment ordained by law in such cases, should be read; which is to the following purpose:

“ That the prisoner shall be sent to the prison  
 “ from whence he came, and put into a mean  
 “ room, stopped from the light, and shall there  
 “ be laid on the bare ground, without any litter,  
 “ straw, or other covering, and without any gar-  
 “ ment about him, except something to hide his  
 “ privy members.—He shall lie upon his back,  
 “ his head shall be covered, and his feet shall be  
 “ bare. One of his arms shall be drawn with a  
 “ cord to one side of the room, and the other  
 “ arm to the other side; and his legs shall be  
 “ served in the like manner. Then there shall be  
 “ laid upon his body as much iron or stone as he  
 “ can bear, and more. And the first day after he  
 “ shall

“ shall have three morsels of barley bread; with-  
 “ out any drink; and the second day, he shall be  
 “ allowed to drink as much as he can, at three  
 “ times, of the water that is next the prison-door,  
 “ except running water; without any bread; and  
 “ this shall be his diet till he dies: and he, against  
 “ whom this judgment shall be given, forfeits his  
 “ goods to the King\*.”

The reading of his sentence producing no effect, they were ordered back to Newgate, there to be pressed to death: but when they came into the press-room, Phillips begged to be taken back to plead, a favour that was granted, though it might have been denied to him: but Spiggot was put under the press, where he continued half an hour with three hundred and fifty pounds weight on his body, but, on the addition of fifty pounds more, he likewise begged to plead.

In consequence hereof they were brought back and again indicted, when the evidence being clear and positive against them, they were convicted, received sentence of death, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 8th of February, 1723.

**WILLIAM SPIGGOT**, who was about twenty-seven years of age when he suffered, was a native of Hereford, but coming to London, he apprenticed himself to a cabinet-maker. He was a married man, and had three children living at the time of his fatal exit. He and Phillips were hanged for robbing Charles Sybbald, on Finchley Common, and were convicted principally on the

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\* By an act passed in 1772, it is determined that persons refusing to plead, shall be deemed guilty, as if convicted by a jury: an alteration that does honour to modern times.



evidence of Joseph Linsey, a clergyman of abandoned character, who had been of their party. One Burroughs a lunatic, who had escaped from Bedlam, was likewise concerned with them, but afterwards publicly spoke of the affair, which occasioned their being taken into custody; and when it was known that Burroughs was disordered in his mind, he was sent back to Bedlam.

THOMAS PHILLIPS, aged thirty-three years, was a native of Bristol, totally uneducated, and being sent to sea when very young, he served under Lord Torrington\*, when he attacked and took the Spanish fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, near the harbour of Cadiz.

Phillips returning to England, became acquainted with Spiggot and Linsey, in company with whom he committed a great number of robberies on the highway. Phillips once boasted that he and Spiggot robbed above an hundred passengers one night, whom they obliged to come out of different waggons, and having bound them, placed them by each other on the side of the road: but this story is too absurd to be believed.

While under sentence of death Phillips behaved in the most hardened and abandoned manner; he paid no regard to any thing that the minister said to him, and swore or sung songs while the other prisoners were engaged in acts of devotion; and towards the close of his life, when his companions became more serious, he grew still more wicked; and yet, when at the place of execution, he said, "he did not fear to die, for he was in no doubt of going to Heaven."

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\*The father of the late unfortunate Admiral Byng.

The lesson of instruction to be drawn from the fate of these malefactors will be compromised in a few words. As the law now stands, no other criminal can ever undergo the punishment that Spiggot sustained; and we hope no other will ever behave in so hardened a manner as Phillips did. It is horrid to think of a man's jesting with sacred matters at any time; but particularly so when he knows himself to be on the verge of eternity. The character of Linsley ought to be held in universal contempt. The clergyman who could desert the duties of his sacred function to join with highwaymen, and then become an evidence to convict them, must be an object of detestation to every honest man!

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Narrative of the Case of BARBARA SPENCER,  
who was hanged for High-Treason.

**I**N the month of May, 1721, Barbara Spencer, Alice Hall, and Elizabeth Bray, were indicted at the Old Bailey, for High-treason, in counterfeiting the current coin of the kingdom; when Hall and Bray were acquitted, as being only agents to the other, and Spencer being found guilty, was sentenced to be burnt.\*

The account that Barbara Spencer gave of herself was in substance as follows. That she was born in the parish of St. Giles without Cripple-gate, and being naturally of a violent temper, her mother was too indulgent to restrain her in a pro-

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\*Women convicted of high, or petit-treason, are always thus sentenced; but they are first tied to a stake, and strangled before they are burnt.

per manner. At length her mother finding her quite unmanageable at home, put her apprentice to a mantua-maker, who having known her from a child, treated her with great kindness.

Barbara had served about two years, when on a dispute with her mistress she went home to her mother, with whom she had not long resided before she insisted on having a maid kept, to which the old woman consented. A quarrel soon happening between Barbara and the maid, the mother interposed: on which the daughter left her for a time, but soon returned again.

Not long after this it happened that some malefactors were to be executed at Tyburn, and Barbara insisted on going to see the execution. This was prudently opposed by her mother, who struggling to keep her at home, struck her; but the daughter getting out of the house, went to a female acquaintance, who accompanied her to Tyburn, and from thence to a house near St. Giles's Pound, where Barbara made a vow that she would never again return to her mother.

In this fatal resolution she was encouraged by the company present, who persuaded her to believe that she might live in an easy manner, if she would but follow their way of life. To this she readily agreed; and as they were coiners, they employed her in uttering counterfeit money, for which she was detected, tried, fined and imprisoned.

Not taking warning by what had happened, she returned to her old connections, commenced coiner herself, and was at length apprehended for the crime for which she suffered.

While under sentence of death she behaved in the most indecent and turbulent manner; nor could she be convinced that she had been guilty

of any crime in making a few shillings. She was for some time very impatient under the idea of her approaching dissolution, and was particularly shocked at the thought of being burnt; but at the place of execution she seemed willing to exercise herself in devotion; but was much interrupted by the mob throwing stones and dirt at her.

She was strangled and burnt at Tyburn, on the 5th of July, 1721.

The unhappy fate of this woman seems to have been occasioned by the violence of her temper, and a want of duty to her mother. Hence let all young people learn to keep their passions in subjection, and to remember the injunction in the fifth commandment; "Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee:" for surely no crime is more likely to lead to destruction than that of disobedience to parents. It is the inlet to every other vice, and the source of a thousand calamities.

Let children that would fear the Lord  
 Hear what their teachers say;  
 With rev'rence meet their parents' word,  
 And with delight obey.

For those who worship God, and give  
 Their parents honour due,  
 Here on earth they long shall live,  
 And life hereafter too.

Case of MATTHEW CLARKE, who was hanged  
for Murder.

**T**HIS offender was the son of poor persons at St. Albans, and brought up as a plough-boy ; but being too idle to follow his business, he fauntered about the country and committed frequent robberies, spending among women the money he obtained in this illegal manner.

Clarke had art enough to engage the affections of a number of young women, to some of whom he promised marriage ; and he seems to have intended to have kept his word with one of them, and went with her to London to tie the nuptial knot ; but going into a goldsmith's shop to buy the ring, he said he had forgot to supply himself with money, but would go into the country and fetch it.

The young woman staid in town while he went to Wilsden-Green, with a view to commit a robbery, that might replenish his pocket. As it was now the season of hay-making, he met a man who, wondering that he should be idle, gave him employment. Beside the business of farming, his employer kept a public-house, and had a servant-maid whom Clarke had formerly courted.

The villain leaving his fellow-labourers in the field, went to the house, and finding the girl only at home, conversed with her some time, but having determined to rob his employer, he thought he could not do it securely without murdering her ; and while she was gone to draw him some beer he pulled out his knife for this horrid purpose ; and when she entered the room he got up to kiss her, thinking to have then perpetrated the deed, but his conscience prevented him : on this  
he

he sat down, and talked with her some time longer, when he got up, and again kissing her, cut her throat in the same instant.

Hereupon she fell down; and attempted to crawl to the door, while the blood streamed from her throat, on which the villain cut her neck to the bone, and robbing the house of a small sum, ran off towards London, under all the agonizing tortures of a wounded conscience.

Tyburn being in his way to town, he was so terrified at the sight of the gallows that he went back a considerable distance, till meeting a waggon, he offered his service in driving, thinking that his being in employment might prevent his being suspected in case of a pursuit. But he had not gone far before some persons rode up, and asked him if he had seen a man who might be suspected for a murder. He seemed so terrified by the question, that the parties could not help noticing his agitation; and on a close inspection, they found some congealed blood on his cloaths, to account for which he said he had quarrelled and fought with a soldier on the road.

Being taken into custody, he soon acknowledged his crime, and being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to Newgate: and when brought to trial he pleaded guilty, in consequence of which he was executed at Tyburn on the 28th of July, 1721, and then hung in chains near the spot where he committed the murder.

There is something dreadfully enormous in the crime for which this man suffered. When under sentence of death he was one of the most miserable wretches that ever endured a situation so calamitous. Nor is this to be wondered at; for the murder he committed was one of the most unprovoked imaginable. It is probable, from the affec-

affection the poor girl had for him, that she would have lent him a greater sum than he obtained by cutting her throat.

His terrors at the sight of the gallows, should teach those who are prompted to iniquity, to avoid all crimes that may lead to a fatal end. The wicked can never be happy; and it is only by a life of integrity, virtue and piety, that we can hope for the blessing of God, the applause of a good conscience, and “that peace of mind which passeth all understanding.”

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Narrative of the singular Case of JOHN MEFF, who was hanged for returning from Transportation.

**T**HIS offender had been taken into custody for committing a robbery near London: but as it happened at a time within the limits of an Act of Grace passed in the reign of king George the First, it was not thought necessary to indict him, and he would have been discharged without farther ceremony, but it appeared that he had been transported for another crime, and returned before the expiration of his time; wherefore he was indicted for this offence, on an act then lately made, “For the effectual transportation of felons;” and his person being identified, he was found guilty, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of September, 1721.

The following is an account which he wrote between his condemnation, and the day of his execution.

“ I was

“ I was born in London of French parents,  
 “ who fled hither for protection, when the French  
 “ Protestants were driven out of France by Lewis  
 “ XIV.

“ I was put apprentice to a weaver ; my father  
 “ having continued about twelve years in Eng-  
 “ land, went with the rest of his family to Hol-  
 “ land. I served my time faithfully, and with  
 “ the approbation of my master. Soon after I  
 “ came to work for myself I married ; but my  
 “ business not being sufficient to maintain myself,  
 “ my wife, and children, I was willing to try  
 “ what I could at thieving.

“ I followed this practice till I was apprehend-  
 “ ed, tried, and condemned, for house-breaking ;  
 “ but, as I was going to the place of execution,  
 “ the hangman was arrested, and I was brought  
 “ back to Newgate. It was thought that this  
 “ was my contrivance, to put a stop to public  
 “ justice ; but I was so far from being any ways  
 “ concerned in it, that I knew nothing of it till it  
 “ was done. This might have been a happy  
 “ turn for me, if I had made a right use of it ; for  
 “ my sentence of death was changed for that of  
 “ transportation. And indeed I took up a solemn  
 “ resolution to lead an honest and regular course  
 “ of life, and to resist all the persuasions of my  
 “ comrades to the contrary. But this resolution  
 “ continued but a short time after the fear of  
 “ death vanished.

“ I believe, however, that, if I had been safe  
 “ landed in America, my ruin might have been  
 “ prevented ; but the ship, which carried me and  
 “ and the other convicts, was taken by the pirates.  
 “ They would have persuaded me and some  
 “ others to sign a paper, in order to become  
 “ pirates ;



“ pirates; but we refusing, they put me and eight  
 “ more ashore, on a desert uninhabited island,  
 “ where we must have perished with hunger, if  
 “ by good fortune an Indian canoe had not ar-  
 “ rived there. We waited till the Indians were  
 “ gone up the island, and then, getting into the  
 “ vessel, we sailed from one small island to an-  
 “ other, till we reached the coast of America.

“ Not chusing to settle in any of the planta-  
 “ tions there, but preferring the life of a sailor,  
 “ I shipped myself on board a vessel that carried  
 “ merchandize from Virginia and South-Caro-  
 “ lina to Barbadoes, Jamaica, and other of his  
 “ majesty’s islands. And thus I lived a consider-  
 “ able time; but at last, being over desirous to see  
 “ how my wife and children fared in England, I  
 “ was resolved to return at all adventures.

“ Upon my arrival here, I quickly fell into  
 “ my former wicked praëtices; and it was not  
 “ long before I was committed to Newgate, on  
 “ suspicion of robbing a person near London;  
 “ but, by the assistance of a certain bricklayer, I  
 “ broke out of prison and went to Hatfield,  
 “ where I lay concealed for some time; but at  
 “ last was discovered, and taken again by the  
 “ same bricklayer who had procured my escape.  
 “ Some evil genius attended me, I was certainly  
 “ infatuated, or I had never continued in a place  
 “ where I was so likely to be discovered.

“ My father is now a gardener at Amsterdam.  
 “ ’Tis an addition to my misfortune, that I can-  
 “ not see him and my mother before I die; but  
 “ I hope when he hears of my unhappy end, he  
 “ will keep my children by my first wife from  
 “ starving. My present wife is able by her in-  
 “ dustry to bring up her own offspring; for she  
 Vol. I. L 1 “ has

“ has been an honest careful woman, during the  
 “ nine months I have been married to her, and  
 “ has often pressed me to go over to Ireland, and  
 “ lead a regular and sober life. It had been well  
 “ for me if I had taken her advice.

“ I have had enough of this restless and tumultu-  
 “ tous world, and hope I am now going to a  
 “ better. I am very easy and resigned to the  
 “ will of Providence, not doubting but I have  
 “ made my peace with Heaven. I thank God  
 “ that I have not been molested by my fellow-  
 “ prisoners, with the least cursing or swearing in  
 “ the condemned-hold; but have had an oppor-  
 “ tunity of employing every moment of my time  
 “ in preparing for a future state.”

#### REFLECTIONS.

The case of this malefactor is very extraordinary, and perhaps may never be equalled by that of any other. The narrow escape he had experienced from the gallows ought to have taught him more wisdom than to have returned from transportation before the expiration of his time; but one would think there is a fatality attending the conduct of some men, who seem resolutely bent on their own destruction.

One truth, however, is certain: It is easy, by a steady adherence to the rules of virtue, to shun that ignominious fate which is the consequence of a breach of the laws of God and our country!

Case of ARTHUR GRAY, who was convicted of a Burglary.

**I**N December, 1721, the prisoner was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of George Baillie, Esq. in the parish of St. James, West-

Westminster, with intent to ravish Grizel, the wife of Alexander Murray.

Mrs. Murray was the sister of Mrs. Baillie, and lived in the house of her brother-in-law, in the absence of her husband, who was a military officer.

It was sworn on the trial that about four in the morning of the 14th of October, the prisoner entered Mrs. Murray's room, with a drawn sword in one hand, and a pistol in the other, and threatened to kill her if she made any noise; that she asked him the meaning of such a procedure, to which he replied, "Madam, I mean to ravish you, for I have entertained a violent passion for you a long time; but as there is so great a difference between your fortune and mine, I despair of enjoying my wishes by any means but force."

On this the lady remonstrated with him; but persisting in his intention, he laid the sword on the bolster, and attempted to pull off the bed-cloaths; but Mrs. Murray pushed him against the wall, wrenched the pistol out of his hand, and rang the bell; on which the prisoner quitted the room; but she followed him to the door, and called out murder, by which the family were alarmed.

The servants now ran to the assistance of the lady, but Gray had got to his own room, and thrown himself on the bed with his cloaths on; and having been out in company the preceding evening, it does not appear that he was undressed during the night.

Being apprehended, and taken before a magistrate, he confessed that he entered the room with an intent to ravish the lady; but this he afterwards steadily denied; and various were the opi-

nions of the public respecting his guilt or innocence.

The prisoner, in his defence, said, that thinking he heard a noise in Mrs. Murray's room, he went down stairs and fetched a sword and pistol; and as the door stood partly open, he went in, and laying down his arms to look behind the bed, Mrs. Murray rang the bell, and alarmed the family.

The jury, having considered the evidence, brought him in guilty; and he received sentence of death: but Mrs. Murray's relations interceding in his behalf, he was afterwards pardoned on condition of transportation.

This affair made a great noise at the time it happened, and many persons did not scruple to insinuate that Gray had been admitted to favours which might warrant his entering the lady's chamber at any hour.

#### REFLECTIONS.

The single reflection arising from this story is, that illicit pleasure leads to disgrace; there is no doubt but there was some foundation for this prosecution. If Gray had been previously too intimate with the lady, she was punished by the exposure of a public trial; if otherwise, he was punished for the attempt in the ignominy of a public conviction. Hence let it be learnt, that chastity is a virtue which cannot be prized at too high a rate!

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The singular Case of NATHANIEL HAWES, who was hanged for a Robbery.

**T**HE subject of this narrative was a native of Norfolk, in which county he was born in the year 1701. Hawes's father was a grazier in ample

ample circumstances, but dying while the son was an infant, a relation in Hertfordshire took care of his education.

At a proper age he was apprenticed to an upholsterer in London; but becoming connected with people of bad character, and thus acquiring an early habit of vice, he robbed his master when he had served only two years of his time; for which he was tried at the Old Bailey, and being convicted of stealing to the amount of thirty-nine shillings, he was sentenced to seven years transportation.

But the sentence thus awarded against Hawes was not carried into execution, owing to the following circumstance. A man named Phillips had encouraged the unhappy youth in his depredations, by purchasing, at a very low rate, such goods as he stole from his master: but when Hawes was taken into custody, he gave information of this affair, in consequence of which a search-warrant was procured, and many effects belonging to Hawes's master were found in Phillips's possession.

Hereupon application was made to the king, and a free pardon was granted to Hawes, whereby he was rendered a competent evidence against Phillips, who was tried for receiving the stolen goods, and was transported for fourteen years.

We are sorry to relate the sequel of this tale. Hawes, during his confinement in Newgate, had made such bad connections as greatly contributed to the contamination of his morals; and soon after his release he connected himself with a set of fellows who acted under the direction of Jonathan Wild; and having made a particular acquaintance with one John James, they joined in the commission of a number of robberies.

After

After an uncommon share of success for some days, they quarrelled on the division of the booty, in consequence of which each acted on his own account. Some little time after they had thus separated, Hawes, being apprehensive that James would impeach him, applied to Jonathan Wild, and informed against his old acquaintance, on which James was taken into custody, tried, convicted, and executed.

Notwithstanding this conviction, the court sentenced Hawes\* to be imprisoned in New-Prison, and that goal was preferred to Newgate, because the prisoners in the latter had threatened to murder Hawes, for being an evidence against James.

Soon after this commitment, Hawes and another fellow made their escape, and entering into partnership, committed a variety of robberies, particularly in the road between Hackney and Shoreditch. This connection, like the former, lasted but a short time: a dispute on dividing their ill-gotten gains occasioned a separation.

Soon after this dissolution of the partnership, Hawes went alone to Finchley-Common, where meeting a gentleman riding to town, he presented a pistol to his breast, and commanded him instantly to dismount, that he might search him for his money.

The gentleman offered him four shillings, on which Hawes swore the most horrid oaths, and threatened instant death, if he did not immediately submit. The gentleman quitted his horse, and in the same moment seized the pistol, which

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\* By an act of the 4th and 5th of William and Mary, for the more effectual conviction of highwaymen, the evidence of accomplices is allowed; but the evidence cannot claim his liberty unless two or more of his accomplices are convicted; but may be imprisoned during the pleasure of the court.

he snatched from the hand of the robber, and presenting it to him, told him to expect death if he did not surrender himself.

Hawes, who was now as terrified as he had been insolent, made no opposition; and the driver of a cart coming up just at that juncture, he was easily made prisoner, conveyed to London, and committed to Newgate.

When the sessions came on, and he was brought to the bar, he refused to plead to his indictment, alledging the following reason for so doing; viz. that he would die, as he had lived, like a gentleman: "The people (said he) who apprehended me, seized a suit of fine cloaths, which I intended to have gone to the gallows in; and unless they are returned I will not plead; for no one shall say that I was hanged in a dirty shirt and ragged coat."

On this he was told what would be the consequence of his contempt of legal authority; but this making no impression on him, sentence was pronounced that he should be pressed to death, whereupon he was taken from the court, and being laid on his back, sustained a load of two hundred and fifty pounds weight about seven minutes; but unable any longer to bear the pain, he entreated that he might be conducted back to the court, which being complied with, he pleaded "Not guilty;" but the evidence against him being complete, he was convicted, and sentenced to die.

After conviction his behaviour was very improper for one in his situation. He told the other capital convicts that he would die like a hero; and behaved in the same thoughtless way till the arrival of the warrant for his execution: after which his conduct was not altogether so scandalous. He owned to the Ordinary of Newgate, that

that he was induced to refuse to plead to his indictment, that the other prisoners might deem him a man of honour, and not from the idle vanity of being hanged in fine cloaths.

He acknowledged many robberies which he had committed; but charged Jonathan Wild as being the principal author of his ruin, by purchasing the stolen goods. He likewise owned that he had been base enough to inform against persons who were innocent, particularly a gentleman's servant, who was then in custody; but he did not discover many signs of contrition for this, or any other of his offences.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 22d of December, 1721.

#### REFLECTIONS.

The inferences to be drawn from the case of this malefactor are obvious. By his informing against James, lest James should impeach him, we see how little confidence thieves can place in each other; and that partnerships in wickedness are sure to end in destruction.

From the resistance made by the gentleman whom Hawes attacked, and the consequent apprehension of the offender, we may fairly conclude that there is a cowardice naturally attached to guilt, which will almost infallibly favour the cause of the honest man.

Narrative of the Life and Trial of WILLIAM BURRIDGE, who was hanged for Horse-stealing.

**T**HIS offender, was a native of Northamptonshire, and served his time with a carpenter; but giving full proofs of his knavish disposition, and having ruined several young women, his friends determined to send him to sea, as the



the most probable method to prevent his coming to a fatal end.

In consequence hereof they got him rated as a midshipman, and he sailed to the coast of Spain; but soon quitting the naval service, he returned to England, and, commencing highwayman, committed many robberies on the road to Hampstead, on Finchley-Common, and in the neighbourhood of Hammersmith.

When he first began the practice of robbing, he formed a resolution to retire when he had acquired as much money as would support him; but this time never arrived; for finding his success by no means proportioned to his expectations, he became one of the gang under Jonathan Wild,\* of infamous memory; and was for a considerable time screened from justice by that celebrated master of thieves.

Burrige being confined in New-Prison for a capital offence, broke out of that goal; and he was repeatedly an evidence at the Old Bailey, by which means his associates suffered the rigour of the law. At length, having offended Wild, the latter marked him down as one doomed to suffer at the next execution after the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; which was a common practice with Wild, when he grew tired of his dependants, or thought they could be no longer serviceable to him.

Alarmed by this circumstance, Burrige fled into Lincolnshire, where he stole a horse, and brought it to London, intending to sell it at Smithfield for present support: but the gentle-

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\* A particular account of this notorious malefactor will appear in the course of this work.

man who had lost the horse, having sent a full description of it to London, Burrige was seen riding on it through the street, and watched to a livery stable.

Some persons going to take him, he produced a brace of pistols, threatening destruction to any one who came near him; by which he got off; but being immediately pursued, he was taken in May-Fair, and lodged in Newgate.

On his trial, a man and a woman swore that they saw him purchase the horse; but as there was a material difference in their stories, the court was of opinion, that they had been hired to swear, and the judge gave directions for their being taken into custody for the perjury.

The jury did not hesitate to find Burrige guilty: and after sentence was passed, his behaviour was extremely devout, and he encouraged the devotion of others in like unhappy circumstances.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 22d of March, 1722, in the 34th year of his age; having first warned the spectators to be obedient to their parents and masters, and to beware of the crime of debauching young women, which had first led him from the path of duty, and finally ended in his ruin.

#### REFLECTIONS.

The idea this unhappy man had conceived of leaving off robbing when he had obtained enough to support him, was ridiculous in the highest degree. Perhaps there never was a single instance of a thief retiring on the profits of his plunder. What is got in an illegal manner is always spent in debauchery and extravagance: but, supposing retirement was possible, could that man expect one moment of peace who had acquired his subsistence

sistance by acts of dishonesty? He could not eat a morsel of bread, or drink a draught of liquor, but he must reflect that it was not his own. His days would be wretched, and his nights sleepless; he would be terrified by every new face he saw; the fear of detection would be ever uppermost in his mind, and he would be perpetually tormented with the racking pains of a guilty conscience.

After this dreadful representation of facts, nothing need be added to convince youth that to tread in the path of virtue is the surest way to happiness; and that he who deviates from this path, is in the certain way to bring destruction on his own head!

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Particulars respecting ARUNDEL COOKE, Esq. and JOHN WOODBURNE, who were hanged for cutting and maiming Mr. CRISP.

**T**HESSE people suffered on what is called the Coventry Act, to understand which it will be necessary to recite a few particulars.

The Coventry Act took its rise from the following circumstance:—Sir John Coventry, in the reign of Charles the second, having opposed the measures of the court in the House of Commons, in revenge hereof some armed villains attacked him one night in Covent-Garden, slit his nose, and cut off his lips. Shocked by so barbarous a deed, the members of both houses of parliament passed an act in a few days, by which it was ordained that “ Unlawfully cutting out, or disabling  
 “ the tongue, of malice aforethought, or by  
 “ lying in wait, putting out an eye, slitting the  
 “ nose or lip, or cutting off or disabling any  
 M m 2 “ limb

“ limb or member of any person, with intent to maim or disfigure, shall be felony without benefit of clergy.”—By this law it is likewise enacted that “ Accessaries shall be deemed principals.” The parties whose crimes we are about to relate, were the first who were executed on this act.

Mr. Cooke was born near Bury St. Edmonds, in the county of Suffolk. His father was a man of fortune, and when he had given him an university education, he sent him to the Temple to study the law, after which he was called to the bar, and acted as a counsellor. After some time he married a young lady, the sister of Mr. Crisp, who lived in the neighbourhood of his native place.

Mr. Crisp being a gentleman of large property, but of a bad state of health, made his will in favour of Cooke, subject only to a jointure for his sister's use, which was likewise to become the property of the counsellor, in case the lady died before her husband.

It was not long after Mr. Crisp had made his will, before he recovered his health in some degree; but he continued an infirm man, though he lived a number of years. This partial recovery gave great uneasiness to Cooke, who wishing to possess the estate, was anxious for the death of his brother-in-law, though, as he had art enough to conceal his sentiments, they appeared to live on tolerable terms.

However, he at length grew so impatient that he could not come into possession by the death of Mr. Crisp, that he resolved to remove him by murder; and for that purpose engaged John Woodburne, a labouring man, who had six children,

dren, to assist him in the execution of his diabolical plan.

For this piece of service he promised to give Woodburne a hundred pounds. The man was unwilling to be concerned in this execrable business; but reflections on his poverty, and the largeness of his family, tempted him to comply.

On this it was agreed, that the murder should be perpetrated on Christmas evening; and as Mr. Crisp was to dine with Cooke on that day, and the church-yard lay between one house and the other, Woodburne was to wait, concealed behind one of the tomb-stones, till Cooke gave him the signal for the attack, which was to be a loud whistle.

Crisp came to his appointment, and dined and drank tea with his brother-in-law; but declining to stay to supper, he left the house about nine o'clock; and was almost immediately followed into the church-yard by Cooke, who giving the agreed signal to Woodburne, the latter quitted his place of retreat, knocked down the unhappy man, and cut and maimed him in a terrible manner; in which he was abetted by the counsellor.

Imagining that they had dispatched him, Mr. Cooke rewarded Woodburne with a few shillings, and instantly went home; but he had not been arrived more than a quarter of an hour before Crisp knocked at the door, and entered covered with wounds, and almost dead through loss of blood. He was unable to speak, but by his looks seemed to accuse Cooke with the intended murder, and was then put to bed, and his wounds dressed by a surgeon.

At the end of about a week he was so much mended as to be removed to his own house. He had no doubt but that Cooke was one of the persons

sons who had assaulted him: but had resolved not to speak of the affair till future circumstances made it necessary for him to inform a court of justice of what had happened.

The intended assassination having greatly engaged the attention of the neighbours, Woodburne was apprehended on suspicion; when making a discovery of the whole truth, Cooke was also taken into custody. They were brought to their trials at the next assizes, when both of them were convicted.

When they were called up to receive sentence of death, Cooke desired to be heard; and the court complying with his request, he urged that "Judgment could not pass on the verdict, because the act of parliament simply mentions an *intention* to maim or deface; whereas he was firmly resolved to have committed murder."

He quoted several law-cases in favour of the arguments he had advanced, and hoped that judgment might be respited till the opinion of the twelve judges could be taken on the cause. The counsel for the crown opposed the arguments of Mr. Cooke, insisted that the crime came within the meaning of the law, and hoped that judgment would pass against the prisoners.

Lord chief justice King, who presided on this occasion, declared that he could not admit the force of Mr. Cooke's plea, consistent with his own oath as a judge; "for (said he) it would establish a principle in the law, inconsistent with the first dictates of natural reason; as the greatest villain might, when convicted of a smaller offence, plead that the judgment must be arrested, because he intended to commit a greater. In the present instance (said he), judgment cannot be arrested, as the intention

“ is naturally implied, when the crime is actually committed.”

His lordship said, that “ Crisp was assassinated in the manner laid in the indictment; it is therefore to be taken for granted that the intention was to maim and deface; wherefore the court will proceed to give judgment:” and accordingly sentence of death was passed on the prisoners.

After condemnation, Cooke employed his time principally in endeavours to procure a pardon; and when he found his expectations fail him, he grew reserved, and would not admit even the visits of his friends. On the contrary, Woodburne was all penitence and contrition, sincerely lamenting the crime he had been guilty of, and the miserable situation in which he left his poor children.

A short time before the day of execution, Cooke wrote to the sheriff, requesting that he might be hanged in the night, to prevent his being exposed to the country-people, who were expected from all the adjacent towns and villages; and, in consequence hereof, he was hanged at four o'clock in the morning, and Woodburne was executed in the afternoon of the same day. The latter behaved with every sign of penitence; but Cooke's conduct was very unfeeling, and he absolutely refused to confess his crime.

These malefactors were executed at Bury St. Edmonds, on the 5th of April, 1722.

#### REFLECTIONS.

Serious reflections may well be made on the above melancholy tale. The baseness of Cooke's heart must render him an object of detestation to every feeling mind. Of all the vices that can degrade humanity, covetousness is one of the meanest.

meanest. The very wish to possess what is not our right, implies a degree of dishonesty; but the man whose covetous disposition can instigate him to the thought of committing murder, is below the beast that perish, and ought to be ranked with the infernal fiends.

What must have been Cooke's thoughts on the Christmas-day, when he was entertaining his brother-in-law with an appearance of friendship and hospitality, yet had determined to murder him! Neither the sanctity, nor the decent festivity of the season, could compose or cheer a mind bent on the perpetration of so horrid a deed. The case of this man will teach us the force of the commandment, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

With regard to Woodburne, though not an object of pity, he is less an object of detestation than Cooke. His large family, and distressed circumstances were temptations. He might say, in the words of the poet,

*My Poverty, but not my Will consents.*

Still, however, his crime was of an aggravated nature, for no temptation should induce a man to embrue his hands in the blood of a fellow-creature. How dreadful to think of rushing into eternity with the crime of murder on the head! May the preventing grace of God preserve us, all from the perpetration of so shocking a deed! May we live in a continual sense of our duty, and seek to make our own lives comfortable by acts of compassion and humanity to our fellow-creatures!

Short



Short account of JOHN HARTLEY and THOMAS REEVES, who were hanged for a robbery.

THESE offenders were tried for stopping a journeyman taylor in the fields near Hoxton, and robbing him of two-pence and his cloaths; and because he had no more money, they beat him most inhumanly, stript him, and bound him to a tree.

While he was in this wretched situation some persons coming by unbound him, and took him to an alehouse, where he told the particulars of the robbery, mentioned the colour of his cloaths, and described the persons of the robbers to the best of his power.

These circumstances were heard by a fiddler, who going next day into a public-house in Forestreet, saw the fellows offering to sell the taylor's coat. The fiddler immediately proposed to be the purchaser, gave earnest for it, and pretending he had not money enough, said he would fetch the difference; instead of which he brought the party robbed, who knowing the footpads, they were taken into custody.

The evidence on their trial was so plain, that the jury could not hesitate to find them guilty, in consequence of which they received sentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was unbecoming persons in their unhappy circumstances. That of Reeves was particularly hardened; he would sing and swear while the other convicts were at prayers, yet he told the ordinary that he was certain of going to heaven.

The most curious circumstance arising from the detection of these offenders, was the singular method that Hartley took to save his life. He procured six young women, dressed in white, to go to St. James's and present a petition in his behalf. The singularity of their appearance gained them admission, when they delivered their petition, and told the king, that if he extended the royal mercy to the offender, they would cast lots which should be his wife: but his majesty said that he was more deserving of the gallows than a wife, and accordingly refused their request.

As they were going to execution, the ordinary asked Reeves if his wife had been concerned with him in any robberies; "No, (said he) she is a worthy woman, whose first husband hap-  
pening to be hanged, I married her, that she might not reproach me by a repetition of his virtues."

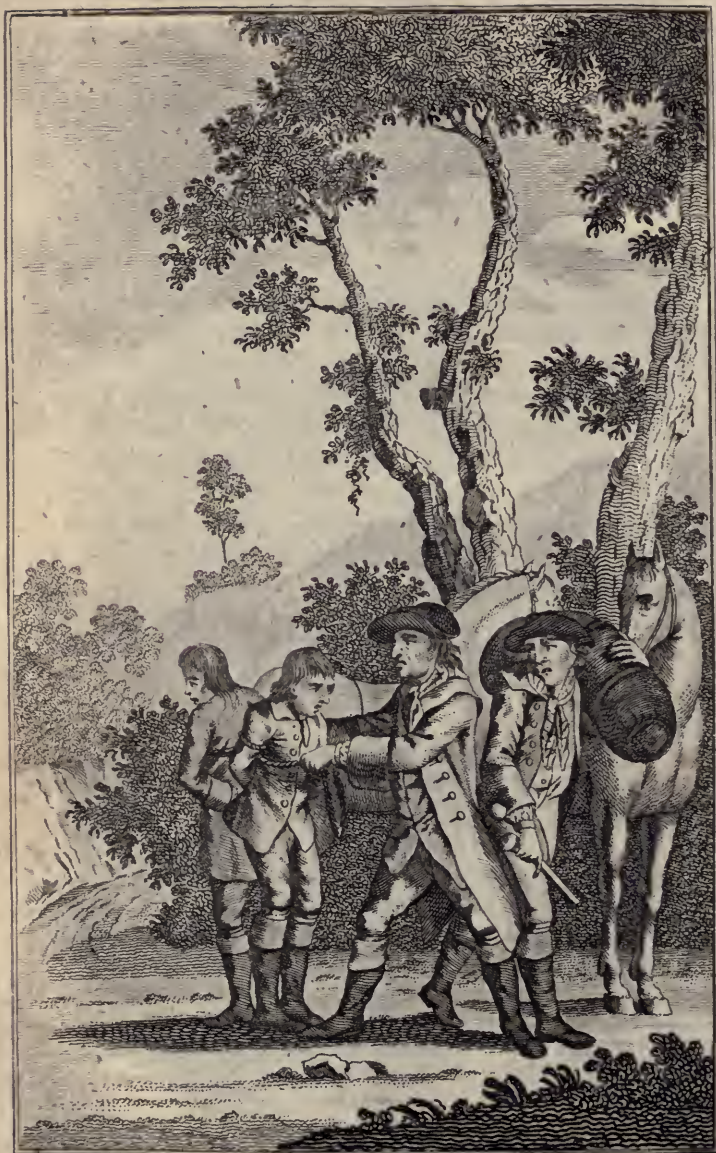
At the fatal tree Reeves behaved in the most hardened manner, affected to despise death, and said he believed he might go to heaven from the gallows as safely as from his bed.

These offenders suffered at Tyburn, on the 4th of May, 1722.

We see, in the instance of these malefactors, from what a casual circumstance their detection arose. A man hears a description of them in a public-house; the next day he went accidentally into another alehouse, where he saw them offering the stolen goods for sale; and, by an honest deception, procured their being taken into custody. The poor fiddler had no interest in their detection but what arose from his abhorrence of vice; yet he was so regardful of what he had heard, that he became the immediate instrument of bringing them to justice.

Hence





*Langro delin.*

*Goodnight sculp.*

**THE MAIL ROBBED near COLNBROOK**  
*By J. Hawkins and Geo. Simpson.*

Hence let us learn to admire the inscrutable mysteries of the providence of God, which, as they surpass our finite comprehension, should excite our wonder and our gratitude. Nothing can be hid from the all-seeing eye of heaven; and the man that commits a crime with the hope of concealing it, does but treasure up a fund of uneasiness for his own mind: for even if the crime should be concealed from the public, he will be perpetually harrassed with the corroding stings of a guilty conscience, and at all times carry with him a hell in his own bosom!

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Narrative of the remarkable Actions of JOHN HAWKINS, and GEORGE SIMPSON, who were executed for robbing the Bristol Mail, and hung in Chains.

AS the crime for which these malefactors suffered is very pernicious in its own nature, and their other transactions made a great noise in the world at the time they took place, we propose to give a particular account of them.

JOHN HAWKINS was the son of a poor farmer at Staines, who not being able to afford to educate him properly, he went into the service of a gentleman, which he soon quitted, and lived as a waiter at the Red Lion at Brentford; but leaving this place, he again engaged as a gentleman's servant.

After living in different families, he became butler to Sir Dennis Dutry, and was distinguished as a servant of very creditable appearance. Indeed his person was uncommonly graceful, and he was remarkably vain of it. He used to fre-

quent gaming tables two or three nights in a week, a practice which led to that ruin which finally befel him.

About this time Sir Dennis had been robbed of a considerable quantity of plate; and as Hawkins's mode of life was very expensive, it was suspected that he was the thief; for which reason he was discharged without the advantage of a good character.

Being thus destitute of the means of subsistence he had recourse to the highway, and his first expedition was to Hounslow-Heath, where he took eleven pounds from the passengers in a coach; but such was his attachment to gaming, that he repaired directly to London, where he lost it all.

He continued to rob alone for some time, losing at the gaming houses what he obtained at so much risk; and he then engaged to rob with other highwaymen; but the same fate still attended him: he lost by gaming, what he got by thieving, and was frequently so reduced as to dine at an eating-house, and then sneak off without paying his reckoning.

Several of Hawkins's old companions having met their deserts at the gallows, he became acquainted with one Wilson, a youth of good education, who had been articled to a solicitor in chancery; but had neglected his business through an attachment to the gaming-tables. Those associates having committed several robberies in conjunction, were tried for one of them; but acquitted for want of evidence; though Wilson, in an account published after Hawkins's condemnation, confesses they were guilty.

Immediately after this Wilson went down to his mother, who lived at Whitby in Yorkshire, and continued with her for about a year, and then

then coming to London, lived with a gentleman of the law: but having lost his money in gaming, renewed his acquaintance with Hawkins, who was now concerned with a new gang of villains; but one of these being apprehended, impeached the rest, which soon dispersed the gang, but not till some of them had made their exit at Tyburn; on which Hawkins was obliged to conceal himself for a considerable time; but at length he ventured to rob a gentleman on Finchley-Common, and shot one of the servants so that he died on the spot.

His next attack was on the Earl of Burlington and Lord Bruce, in Richmond Lane, from whom they took about twenty pounds, two gold watches, and a sapphire ring. For this ring a reward of 100*l.* was offered to Jonathan Wild; but Hawkins failed to Holland with it, and there sold it for forty pounds.

Hawkins returning to England, joined his companions, of whom Wilson was one, and robbed Sir David Dalrymple of about three pounds, a snuff-box, and a pocket-book, for which last Sir David offered 60*l.* reward to Wild; but the robbers having no connection with that execrable villain, who did not even know their persons, they sent the book by a porter to Sir David, without expence.

Hawkins and his associates next stopped Mr. Hide of Hackney in his coach, and robbed him of 10*l.* and his watch, but missed 300*l.* which the gentleman then had in his possession. After this they stopped the Earl of Westmoreland's coach in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, and robbed him of a sum of money, though there were three footmen behind the carriage. The footmen called the watch; but

but the robbers firing a pistol over their heads, the guardians of the night decamped.

Hawkins had now resolved to carry the booty obtained in several late robberies to Holland; but Jonathan Wild having heard of the connection, caused some of the gang to be apprehended; on which the rest went into the country to hide themselves.

On this occasion Hawkins and Wilson went to Oxford, and paying a visit to the Bodleian library, the former wantonly defaced some pictures in the gallery; and 100*l.* reward was offered to discover the offender: and a poor taylor being taken up on suspicion, narrowly escaped being whipped; merely because he was of whiggish principles.

Wilson and Hawkins returning to London, and the former coming of age at that time, succeeded to a little estate his father had left him, which he sold for 350*l.* a small part of which he lent to his companions, to buy horses, and soon dissipated the rest at the gaming-table.

The associates now stopped two gentlemen in a chariot on the Hampstead Road, who both fired at once, by which three slugs were lodged in Hawkins's shoulder, and the highwaymen got to London, with some difficulty. On Hawkins's recovery they attempted to stop a gentleman's coach in Hyde-Park; but the coachman driving hastily, Wilson fired, and wounding himself in the hand, found it difficult to scale the Park wall, to effect his escape.

This circumstance occasioned some serious thoughts in his mind, in consequence of which he set out for his mother's house in Yorkshire, where he was kindly received, and fully determined never to return to his former practices.

While



While he was engaged in his mother's business, and planning schemes for domestic happiness, he was sent for to a public-house, where he found his old acquaintance, Hawkins, in company with George Simpson, of whom we shall have occasion to relate more in the course of this narrative.

Wilson was shocked at seeing them, and asked what could induce them to take such a journey. Hereupon Hawkins swore violently, said Wilson was impeached, and would be taken into custody in a few days. This induced him to go to London with them; but on his arrival he found that the story of the impeachment was false.

When in London they formed connections with other thieves, and committed several robberies, for which some of the gang were executed. They frequented a public-house at London-Wall, the master of which kept a livery stable, so that they rode out at all hours, and robbed the stages, as they were coming into town. They took not only money, but portmanteaus, &c. and divided the booty with Carter, the master of the livery stable.

In this practice they continued a considerable time, till they were apprehended for robbing the mail, which we shall have occasion to mention in the sequel.

GEORGE SIMPSON was a native of Putney in Surry. His father was a wine-merchant, but being reduced in circumstances, removed into Lincolnshire. Young Simpson kept a public-house at Lincoln, and acted as a sheriff's officer; but quitting the country, he came to London, and was butler to Lord Castlemain; after which he lived in several other creditable places.

He now became acquainted with Hawkins, in company with whom he stopped the carriage of Richard West, Esq. behind Buckingham house,  
from

from whom they took a gold watch, and other valuable articles.

Soon after this he robbed the Portsmouth coach, in company with Wilson, when one of the company fired at them. Thus they continued their depredations on the public, till one of their associates, named Child, was executed at Aylesbury, and hung in chains, for robbing the mail. This incensed them to such a degree, that they determined to revenge the supposed insult by committing a similar crime.

They mentioned their design in the presence of Carter, the stable keeper, who advised them to stop the mail from Harwich; but this they declined, because the changing of the wind must render the time of its arrival uncertain. At length it was determined that they would rob the Bristol mail; and they set out on an expedition for that purpose.

It appeared on the trial that the boy who carried the mail was overtaken at Slough, by a countryman, who travelled with him to Langley-Broom, where a person rode up to them and turned back again. When passing through Colnbrook they saw the same man again, with two others, who followed them at a small distance, and then pulling their wiggs over their foreheads, and holding handkerchiefs in their mouths, came up with them, and commanded the post-boy and the countryman to come down a lane, where they ordered them to quit their horses, and then Hawkins, Simpson and Wilson tied them back to back, and fastened them to a tree in a wet ditch, so that they were obliged to stand in the water. This being done, they took such papers as they liked out of the Bath and Bristol bags, and hid the rest in a hedge.

They

They now crossed the Thames, and riding a little way into Surry, put up their horses at an inn in Bermondsey-street. It was now about six in the morning, when they parted, and went different ways to a public-house in the Minories, where they proposed to divide their ill-gotten treasure.

The landlord being acquainted with the persons, and knowing the profession of his guests, shewed them a private room, and supplied them with pen and ink. Having equally divided the bank notes, they threw the letters in the fire, and then went to their lodgings in Green-Arbour-Court in the Old-Bailey.

A few days after this transaction they were taken into custody, in the following manner. Information having been given at the Post Office, that suspicious people frequented the house of Carter, the stable-keeper at London-Wall, some persons were sent thither to make the necessary discoveries. Wilson happening to be there at the time, suspected their business, on which he abruptly retired, slipped through some bye allies, and got into the Moorgate coffee-house, which he had occasionally used for two years before, on account of its being frequented by reputable company, and therefore less liable to be searched for suspicious people.

He had not been long in the house before a quaker mentioned the search that was making in the neighbourhood, for the men who robbed the mail. This shocked him so that he instantly paid his reckoning, and going out at the back door, went into Bedlam, where the melancholy sight of the objects around him, induced him to draw a comparison between their situation and his own;

and he concluded that he was far more unhappy through the weight of his guilt, than those poor wretches whom it had pleased God to deprive of the use of their intellects.

Having reflected that it would not be safe for him to stay longer in London, he resolved to go to Newcastle by sea, and he was confirmed in this resolution, on reflecting that a person who wished his safety had informed him that he and his companions were the parties suspected of having robbed the mail. This friend likewise advised him to go to the Post-Office, surrender, and turn evidence; hinting that if he did not, it was probable Simpson would: as he had asked some questions which seemed to intimate such a design.

Wilson neglected this advice; but held his resolution of going to Newcastle; and with that intention quitted Bedlam; but by Moorgate coffee-house he met the men he had seen at Carter's. They turned and followed him: yet, unperceived by them, he entered the coffee-house, while they went under the arch of the gate, and if he had returned by the door he entered, he would have again escaped them; but going out of the fore-door of the house, they took him into custody, and conducted him to the Post-office.

On his first examination he refused to make any confession: and on the following day, he seemed equally determined to conceal the truth, till two circumstances induced him to reveal it. In the first place the Post Master General promised that he should be admitted an evidence if he would discover his accomplices; and one of the clerks calling him aside, shewed him a letter, without any name to it, of which the following is a copy:

“ S I R,

“SIR,

“I am one of those persons who robbed the mails, which I am sorry for; and, to make amends, I will secure my two companions as soon as may be. He whose hand this shall appear to be, will, I hope, be entitled to the reward and his pardon.”

As Wilson knew this letter to be of Simpson's hand-writing, he thought himself justified in making a full discovery, which he accordingly did, in consequence of which his associates were apprehended at their lodging in the Old Bailey, two days afterwards. At first they made an appearance of resistance, and threatened to shoot the peace-officers; but the latter saying they were provided with arms, the offenders yielded, and were committed to Newgate.

On the trial, Hawkins endeavoured to prove that he was in London at the time the mail was robbed; and one Fuller, of Bedfordbury, swore that he lodged at his house on that night. To ascertain this, Fuller produced a receipt for thirty shillings, which he said Hawkins then paid him for horse hire.

The judge desiring to look at that receipt, observed that the body of it was written with an ink of a different colour from that of the name at the bottom: on which he ordered the note to be handed to the jury, and remarked that Fuller's testimony deserved no kind of credit.

After examining some other witnesses, the judge proceeded to sum up the evidence, in which he was interrupted by a singular occurrence, which will be best understood by our giving it in the words of the short-hand writer.

“ My ink, as it happened, was very bad, being thick at bottom, and thin and waterish at top; so that according as I dipped my pen, the writing appeared very pale or pretty black.

“ Now, just as the court was remarking on the difference of the ink in Fuller’s receipt; a gentleman who stood by me, perceiving something of the same kind in my writing, desired to look upon my notes for a minute. As I was not aware of any ill consequence, I let him take the book out of my hand: when presently shewing it to his friend, See here, (said he) what difference there is in the colour of the same ink!” His friend took it and shewed it to another. Uneasy at this I spoke to them to return me my book. They begged my pardon, and said I should have it in a minute; but this answer was no sooner given, than a curiosity suddenly entered one of the jurymen who sat just by, and he too begged a sight of the book; which, notwithstanding my importunity, was immediately handed to him. He viewed it and gave it to the next, and so it passed from one to another, ’till the judge perceiving them very busy, called to them. ——— Gentlemen, what are you doing? what book is that? They told him it was the writer’s book, and they were observing how the same ink appeared pale in one place, and black in another. You ought not, gentlemen, says he, to take notice of any thing, but what is produced in evidence. And, then, turning to me, demanded what I meant by shewing that to the jury. I answered, that I could not fix upon the persons, for the gentlemen near me were all strangers to me, and I was far from  
 “ i ma-

“imagining I should have any such occasion for taking particular notice of them.—His lordship then re-assumed his charge to the jury, which being ended, they withdrew to consider of their verdict.”

After staying out about an hour, the jury returned into court without agreeing on a verdict, saying they could not be convinced that Fuller’s receipt was not genuine, merely on account of the different colours of the ink.

In answer hereto the court intimated how many witnesses had sworn that Hawkins was absent from London; to contradict all whom there was only the evidence of Fuller, which was at least rendered doubtful by the ink appearing of two colours: and it was submitted whether Fuller’s single testimony ought to be held of equal validity with that of all the opposing parties. Hereupon the jury went out of court, and on their return, gave a verdict of “guilty” against both the prisoners.

After sentence of death they behaved as became persons in their unfortunate circumstances: Simpson in particular appeared to be highly affected with the awfulness of his situation.

At the place of execution Hawkins addressed the surrounding multitude, acknowledging that his sins had brought him to that shameful end, professing to die in charity with all mankind, and begging the prayers of those who were witnesses of his melancholy exit. He died with great difficulty; but Simpson was out of his pain almost without a struggle.

Robbing the mail is a crime of so enormous a magnitude, that we are at a loss to find language in which to express our abhorrence of it. It is inconceivable what distress may be occasioned by the perpetration of a fact of this nature. Tradesmen

men who expect remittances by the post may be ruined by their not arriving in time; and the bankruptcy of one may be the destruction of many. Hence, it is possible that hundreds of honest manufacturers and other dependents on shopkeepers, may suffer through the wickedness of one man who is base enough to rob the mail.

Those who think on this circumstance must shudder with horror, if they have any concern for the welfare of their fellow-creatures. It is no wonder that our laws have provided for the punishment of this crime in the most exemplary manner; and it is observable that it is less frequent than that of any other species of robbery. This seems to shew how dangerous it is held even by thieves; for we cannot suppose that they are restrained from the commission of this crime more than of others, by any superior motives of honesty, or regard for the public welfare.

With respect to the case of the criminals in question, it appears that they had taken every precaution to prevent a discovery; but the all-seeing eye of Heaven brought their most secret transactions to light. Wilson's consciousness of guilt, when he saw the persons from the Post-Office at London-Wall; his reflections when in Bedlam, and his being afterwards taken by the accident of going out at the wrong door of the coffee-house, are all circumstances well worthy the notice of the reader.

From Simpson's sending a letter, offering to secure his companions, we may learn the fallacy of that proverb, which says, that there is "honour even among thieves." When once men have broken the band of common honesty, when they have declared war upon the public, there can be no security that they will act with integrity towards



wards each other. On the contrary, it is to be presumed that they will be friends no longer than an outward shew of friendship may promote their present interest.

Upon the whole, the fate of these malefactors should teach us that there can be no happiness independent of virtue; and that combinations in wickedness must be soon dissolved, from their own nature. Wherefore let us be careful in the choice of our company; let us remember that money obtained by dishonest means will afford us no satisfaction: and may we consider the force of that proverb of Solomon, “Riches profit not in the day of wrath! but righteousness delivereth from death.”

The above-mentioned malefactors were hung in chains on Hounslow-Heath, after being executed at Tyburn, on the 21st of May, 1722.

Particulars respecting NATHANIEL JACKSON, who was hanged for Robbery.

**T**HIS malefactor was a native of Doncaster in Yorkshire, and his father dying while he was very young, left a sum of money for his use in the hands of a relation who apprenticed him to a silk-weaver in Norwich. He had frequent disputes with his master, with whom he lived three years and then ran away from him.

At length his guardian found out his retreat, and sent to inform him that, as he was averse to business, his friends wished that a place might be purchased for him with the money left by his father. But Jackson being of an unsettled disposition, enlisted in the army, and was sent to Ireland,

land, where he engaged in all those scenes of low debauchery by which the common soldiers are too much distinguished.

At length, being disgusted with his low condition, he solicited his discharge, which having obtained, he procured some money of his friends, and gave fifteen guineas to be admitted into a troop of dragoons; but soon quarrelling with one of his comrades, a duel ensued, in which Jackson wounded the other in a most horrid manner, for which he was turned out of the regiment.

He now returned to England, and lived some time with his guardian in Yorkshire; but being averse to a life of sobriety, he soon went to London, where he spent, in the most extravagant manner, the little money he brought with him, and was reduced to the utmost distress, when he casually met John Murphy, and Neal O'Brian, whom he had known in Ireland. After they had drank together, O'Brian produced a considerable sum of money, saying, "You see how I live: I never want money, and if you have but courage, and dare walk with me towards Hampstead to night, I'll shew you how easy it is to get it."

As Jackson and Murphy were both of dissolute manners, and very poor, they were easily persuaded to be concerned in this dangerous enterprize. Between Tottenham-Court-Road and Hampstead they stopped a poor man named Dennis, from whom they took his coat, waistcoat, two shirts, thirteen pence in money, and some other trifling articles; and then bound him to a tree. No sooner were they gone, than he struggled hard, and got loose, and meeting a person whom he knew, they pursued them to a night-house in the Haymarket, where Murphy and  
Jackson

Jackfon were taken into custody, but O'Brian made his escape.

On their trial, as soon as Dennis had given his testimony, they owned the fact they had committed, in consequence of which they received sentence of death; but Murphy obtained a reprieve. Jackfon's brother exerted all his influence to save his life; but his endeavours proving ineffectual, he sent him a letter to inform him of it, which was written in such an affecting manner as to overwhelm his mind with the most pugnent affliction.

While under sentence of death, Jackfon behaved in the most penitent manner; confessed the sins of his past life with the deepest signs of contrition; was earnest in his devotions, and made every preparation for his approaching end. He was executed at Tyburn on the 18th of July, 1722.

It is observable, in the case of this malefactor, that he suffered for the first robbery he ever committed, of which we have any account; and that his vices and extravagance had reduced him to such a state of poverty, as to induce him to listen to the first temptation that was ever thrown in his way.

Hence let the young and thoughtless guard against the slightest appearance of evil. Let them shun bad company as they would a pestilence: let them learn the advantages of frugality, and consider that a man who is temperate and prudent, will have no temptation to be dishonest. It may be useful to keep in mind this text of scripture, "The wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it."

Case of THOMAS BUTLOGE, who was hanged for stealing money and other Effects, in the house of his Master.

**T**HIS offender was a native of Ireland, where he received a good education, and was then apprenticed to a vintner in Dublin; but the house in which he lived not being of the most reputable kind, he became witness to such scenes as had a natural tendency to debauch his morals.

Butloge's master having got considerably in debt, came to England, and resided some time at Chester, whither the apprentice was frequently sent with such remittances as the wife could spare. At length Butloge quitted his service, and came to England with a view to settle there; but being unsuccessful in his endeavours to procure an establishment, he returned to Dublin, where he engaged in the service of a shopkeeper, whose daughter he soon afterwards married.

He had now a fair prospect of success before him, as his wife's father proposed to have resigned business in his favour; but being of an unsettled disposition, and having conceived an idea of making his fortune in England, he could not bring his mind to think of the regular pursuit of trade.

Unhappily for him, while he was amusing himself with the imagination of his future greatness, he received a letter from a relation in England, inviting him thither, and promising his interest to obtain him a place on which he might live in a genteel manner. Butloge readily accepted this invitation, and immediately embarking for England, soon arrived in London.

He

He now took lodgings at the court end of the town, and living in a gay stile, soon spent all the money he had brought with him from Ireland; and his relation not being able to obtain the place for him which he had expected, he was reduced to the necessity of going to service, on which he entered into that of Mr. Langlie, a French gentleman.

He had not been long in his new place, when Mr. Langlie, going to church on a Sunday, recollected that he had forgot to lock his bureau; in which he had deposited a sum of money; whereupon he went home, and found Butloge in the room where the money was left. When Mr. Langlie had counted his cash, the other asked him if he missed any thing, and the master answered one guinea; which Butloge said he had found by the side of the bureau; whereupon his master gave him two shillings, in approbation of this instance of his honesty.

Mr. Langlie went to Chelsea in the afternoon; and during his absence Butloge broke open his bureau, robbed it of all the money, and several other valuable effects, and then took a horse, which he had hired for a gentleman to go to Chester, and set off on his way to Ireland.

When Mr. Langlie returned in the evening, he discovered the loss he had sustained, on which he applied to lord Gage, who wrote to the postmaster of Chester to stop the delinquent; in consequence of which he was apprehended with the stolen goods in his possession, and sent to London to take his trial, which happened soon afterwards at the Old Bailey, when he was capitally convicted.

After he had received sentence of death he acknowledged that he was not tempted by want

to the commission of the crime which had brought him into such deplorable circumstances; but that the vanity of appearing as a gentleman had been one principal instigation: and he was encouraged by the consideration that Mr. Langlie would soon return to France, so that there would be no person to prosecute him. He submitted to his unhappy lot with resignation, declaring that the thoughts of death did not so much terrify him, as the reflection on the disgrace that he had brought on his family.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of July, 1722.

From the case of Butloge we may see the propriety of parents making choice of such professions for their children as will not necessarily expose them to temptations. The scenes he was witness to during his apprenticeship had, as we have observed a natural tendency to debauch his manners; and though they did not absolutely make a thief of him, yet they prepared his mind for the reception of the first ill impression that should be made on it. The poet says,

Children, like tender osiers, take the bow;  
And as they first are fashioned always grow.

And to this observation the moralist may add, that “ Nothing is so likely to contaminate the mind, as the seeing others proceed in the ways of pleasurable iniquity without controul.”

The almost immediate fate of this man, consequent on the robbing his master, should teach servants in general the propriety of behaving with fidelity to their protectors: and his stealing Mr. Langlie’s money so soon after receiving a gratuity from him for his supposed integrity, exhibits an  
instance

instance of ingratitude which we hope will never be imitated.

Of late years we have seldom known an instance of a servant's robbing his master, and being convicted, but he has suffered the utmost rigour of the law: and indeed it is proper it should be so; for an offence of this nature is one of the most enormous crimes of which any person can be guilty.

Butloge seems to have been, in some degree, a sacrifice to his own pride and ambition. Let those who are tempted to act as he did, remember that “A man's pride shall bring him low; but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

Particulars respecting MATTHIAS BRINSDEN, who was hanged for Murder,

**I**N the month of September, 1722, Matthias Brinsden was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Hannah, his wife, on the 16th of July preceding.

This offender served his time to a cloth-drawer in Blackfriars, named Beech, who dying, was succeeded by Mr. Byfield, who left the business to Brinsden, who married Byfield's widow; but how long she lived with him is uncertain.

After the death of this wife he married a second, by whom he had ten children, some of the older of whom were brought up to work at his business. At length he was seized with a fever so violent that it distracted him; so that he was tied down to his bed. This misfortune occasioned such a decay in his trade, that on his recovery he carried news-papers, and did any other business he could to support his family.

Going

Going home about nine o'clock one evening, his wife, who was sitting on a bed, suckling a young child, asked him what she should have for supper; to which he answered, "bread and cheese—Can't you eat that as well as the children?" She replied; "No, I want a bit of meat."—"But (said he) I have no money to buy you any." In answer to which she said, "You know I have had but little to-day:" and some farther words arising between them, he stabbed her under the left breast with a knife.

The deed was no sooner perpetrated than one of the daughters snatched the infant from the mother's breast, and another cried out, "O Lord! father, you have killed my mother." The prisoner now sent for some basilicon and sugar, which he applied to the wound, and then made his escape.

A surgeon being sent for found that the wound was mortal; and the poor woman died soon after he came, and within half an hour of the time the wound was given.

In the interim the murderer had retreated to the house of Mr. King, a barber at Shadwell; whence, on the following day, he sent a letter to one of his daughters, and another to a woman of his acquaintance; and in consequence of these letters he was discovered, taken into custody, carried before a magistrate, and committed to take his trial for the murder.

When on trial, he urged in his defence, that his wife was in some degree intoxicated, that she wanted to go out and drink with her companions, and that while he endeavoured to hinder her, she threw herself against the knife; and received an accidental wound.

How-



However, the evidence against him was so clear, that his allegations had no weight, and he received sentence of death. After conviction he became serious and resigned, and being visited by one of his daughters who had given evidence against him, he took her in his arms, and said, "God forgive me, I have robbed you of your mother: be a good child, and rather die than steal: never be in a passion; but curb your anger, and honor your mistress; she will be as a father and mother to you. Farewel, my dear child: pray for your father, and think of him as favourably as you can."

On his way to the place of execution the daughter above-mentioned was permitted to go into the cart to take her last farewel of him, a scene that was greatly affecting to the spectators.

As some reports very unfavourable to this malefactor had been propagated during his confinement, he desired the ordinary of Newgate to read the following speech just before he was launched into eternity.

**I** was born of kind parents, who gave me learning; I went apprentice to a fine-drawer. I had often jars, which might increase a natural waspishness in my temper. I fell in love with Hannah, my last wife, and after much difficulty won her, she having five suitors courting her at the same time. We had ten children (half of them dead) and I believe we loved each other dearly; but often quarrelled and fought.

"Pray, good people, mind, I had no malice against her, nor thought to kill her two minutes before the deed; but I designed only to make her obey me thoroughly, which the scripture says, all wives should do. This I thought I had done,  
when

when I cut her scull on Monday, but she was the same again by Tuesday.

“ Good people, I request you to observe, that the world has spitefully given out, that I carnally and incestuously lay with my eldest daughter. I here solemnly declare, as I am entering into the presence of God, I never knew whether she was man or woman since she was a babe. I have often taken her in my arms, often kissed her, sometimes given her a cake or a pye, when she did any particular service, beyond what came to her share; but never lay with her, or carnally knew her, much less had a child by her. But when a man is in calamities, and is hated like me, the women will make surmises be certainties.

“ Good christians, pray for me! I deserve death: I am willing to die; for, though my sins are great, God’s mercies are greater.”

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 24th of September, 1722.

If any credit is to be given to Brinsden’s last solemn declaration, his wife as well as himself, seems to have been of an unhappy disposition: since they could not refrain from quarrelling, though they had a sincere regard for each other. We fear this to be too commonly the case in the married state; but it is a lamentable consideration that those who have engaged to be the mutual comfort and support of each other through life, should render the rugged path still more difficult, by their mutual contentions and animosities.

It is the part of a husband to protect his wife from every injury and insult; to be at once a father and a guardian to her; and so far from ill-treating her himself, he ought to be particularly watchful that she be not ill-used by others: the

tender sex has a natural claim to the protection of the more robust. Indeed it appears, as if one reason why providence bestowed superior strength on the man, was for the defence and protection of the woman.

On the other hand women should be grateful for this protection; and in the emphatical words of St. Paul, wives should learn to be “obedient to their husbands in all things.”

It is a very unfortunate circumstance when persons of opposite sentiments happen to be united in wedlock: but, even in this case, people of sense and humanity will learn to bear with the failings of each other, considering that much allowance is to be made for their own faults. They will endeavour to make the lot which has befallen them more supportable than it otherwise would be; and, in time, by the constant wish to please, they may even conciliate the affections of each other, and mutual happiness may arise where it is least expected.

In general, however, a coincidence of temper, and a purity of manners, added to a sacred regard to religious duties, is the greatest security for happiness in the married state. Beautiful are the lines of the poet:

Two kindest souls alone should meet,  
 'Tis friendship makes their bondage sweet,  
 And feeds their mutual loves:  
 Bright Venus, on her rolling throne,  
 Is drawn by gentle birds alone,  
 And cupids yoke the doves.

Though mutual affection greatly conduces to conjugal happiness, yet sobriety and honesty are also necessary ingredients for sweetening the matrimonial cup.

Account of the Trial of MARGARET FISHER, for privately stealing; with the singular evidence given against her.

**I**N September 1722, Margaret Fisher was indicted at the Old Bailey for privately stealing thirteen guineas from the person of Daniel Macdonald.

As our readers have a claim upon us for matters of entertainment as well as instruction, we are ready to gratify them, as we shall always be, when it can be done without grossly violating the laws of decency; and we insert the following for the sake of the whimsical singularity of the prosecutor's evidence, which was delivered in the following terms.

“ And leek yer loardship, I had just taken my wages, thirteen guineas in goud, and was gawn along King-strate, in Wastmanster, when I met wi' this fow quean at the bare, and she speird where I was gawn; I taud her hame. She said, gen I wad ga wi' her tull Joannah Davis's hoose, she wad gi' me a drame, sir, for, in troth, she tuck me for a poor gawkey, boss-headed chiel, and leek yer loardship. Sa she tuck haud o' my haind, and led me a gat I kenna' reet weel. And when we came tull Joanny Davis's hoose, she caud for muckle beer and braindy, and gard me as bung as a swobe, and leek yer hoanour. I staid there wi' her a pratty while; and thane, sir, I pit my haind intull my bricks, to feel for money to pay the rackoning; but the deel a bawbie could I find for it was aw tint. And when I speird about it, they glowred, and taud me, gen I wanna' rack my self awaw, they wad gar me ga, wi' a deel to  
me;

me; and sa fir, they dang me su' fair, and turned me oot at the back door, intull the strate, and I rambled aboot, and cou' na' find the hoose agen: and the watchmen mat wi' me, and carried me intull the roond-hoose. And thare I taud 'em hoo I had been roabed. The neist moorning I gade and food oot Joanny Davis's hoose, but she was rin away and the prafoner too. But at neet, about saven a cloke, I mat wi' this ampudent betch at the bare, and tuck her up, I ken weel enuh that she must ha' my goud, for na faul alse was wi' me but Joanny Davis, wha brote what we cawd for.—Let her denee it an she can—somebody (but I kenna' whaw it was) offered me sax guineas in my haind to make the maiter up, but I wanna' tack it."

In her defence the prifoner alledged, that meeting with a coachman and the profecutor, the former asked her to drink; on which they went to the house of Mrs. Davis; but that she sat on the opposite side of the room that the profecutor did, and had not robbed him; and that nothing was found upon her when she was searched.

But the jury not believing her allegations, and as she had no persons to appear in behalf of her character, she was found guilty, and received sentence of death. However, she pleaded that she was with child; and a jury of matrons finding this to be the fact, she had the good fortune to be respited, and afterwards pardoned.

The remark to be made on this case arises from the folly of those men who will suffer themselves to be robbed by the women of the town. Nothing is more common than for countrymen to be picked up by these abandoned creatures, who entice them to drink, and then strip them of their

whole property. One would imagine that the repeated accounts of these transactions given in the newspapers might be sufficient to guard all men against the artifices of these wretches : but experience proves the contrary. It may therefore be proper to caution our readers from a higher authority than that of the newspapers.

“ My son attend unto my wisdom ; and bow  
 “ thine ear to my understanding :—that thou  
 “ mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may  
 “ keep knowledge :—for the lips of a strange wo-  
 “ man drop as a honey-comb, and her mouth is  
 “ smoother than oil :—but her end is bitter as  
 “ wormwood, sharp as a two edged sword : her  
 “ feet go down to death ; her steps take hold on  
 “ hell.”—Proverbs, chap. v. first five verses.

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ACCOUNT OF ROBERT WILKINSON, JAMES LINCOLN, and THOMAS MILKSOP, who were hanged for Murder.

**T**HESSE offenders were tried for a murder which arose from the following circumstance.

Having agreed to commit a robbery together, they stopped a gentleman's coach on the road to Kensington, and having robbed him of a sum of money, ran off; and soon afterwards meeting a Chelsea pensioner who had a gun in his hand, they ordered him to deliver it; but the man refusing to do it, Wilkinson stabbed him repeatedly through the back with a hanger; and when they saw the man was dead, they hastily decamped,

ed, committed some robberies on coaches in the road, and then went to London.

On the following day they were apprehended and committed to prison; and being soon afterwards brought to their trial at the Old Bailey, they were convicted, and received sentence of death.

It will be now proper to give such an account of these offenders as we have been able to collect. — ROBERT WILKINSON was the son of poor parents in St. Giles's, and having missed the advantages of education, became an associate of coachmen, carmen, and others the lowest of the people. At length he grew to be a dextrous boxer, and frequented Hockley-in-the-Hole, and other blackguard places in the neighbourhood of London,

After this he commenced footpad, and committed a great variety of robberies, attended with many circumstances of cruelty. Frequently did he knock men down with bludgeons; and when he had robbed women, it was a common practice with him to strip them naked, bind them to trees, and leave them in that calamitous situation.

He continued this way of life alone for some years, and then connected himself with the other villains whose names are mentioned in this narrative.

JAMES LINCOLN was likewise born of mean parents, nor was any more care taken of his education than of Wilkinson's. For some time he served the hackney-coachmen and carmen, and afterwards committed an immense number of footpad robberies in the roads near London; and so frequent were his depredations of this kind, that honest men were afraid to pass alone about their lawful business.

He

He had been so successful in his adventures, and had so often escaped detection, that he grew so hardened as to watch four nights at the end of Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, to rob the duke of Newcastle of his George, though he knew that his grace had always a number of servants in his train.

Being disappointed of this booty, he went on foot to Hyde-park, where he robbed a gentleman in his carriage, and eluded all pursuit. The money he acquired by his robberies was spent in the most extravagant manner; and at length he became acquainted with the other subjects of this narrative, and was concerned in the crime which ended in their mutual ruin.

THOMAS MILKSOP was a native of London, and was bound apprentice to a vintner, in which station he became familiar to some scenes of irregularity that had a natural tendency to corrupt his morals. When the term of his apprenticeship was expired, he attached himself to some abandoned women, and got connected with an infamous gang of housebreakers and other thieves, who committed numberless depredations on the public.

Milksop having, by one of his night-robberies, acquired a considerable sum of money, bought a horse, and rode out in the character of a highwayman; but not meeting with any success in this way, he returned to his former practices, and then engaged with a gang, of which Wilkinson and Lincoln were two, and was concerned in a great number of other facts, besides that which brought him to a fatal end.

The behaviour of these malefactors under sentence of death was rather hardened. They had been guilty of a great number of offences, for  
which.



OAKY, LEVEE and FLOOD—*for Robbery.* 311

which they did not appear to have a proper concern. Such was the conduct of Wilkinson, that the Ordinary of Newgate refused to administer the sacrament to him, on which he said if he was not allowed to go to heaven with others, he would find the way alone. Lincoln professed himself a Roman Catholic; and Milkfop, among his other offences, particularly lamented the committing a rape on a poor woman whom he robbed near Caen-wood\*.

These offenders suffered death at Tyburn, on the 24th of September, 1722.

There is nothing so remarkable in the case of these criminals as the ill consequences resulting from a want of education, and the being witness to scenes of debauchery. The former was the case of Wilkinson and Lincoln, and the latter of Milkfop. From their fate then, let parents, in whatever sphere of life, be taught to give their children as good an education as is in their power; and be particularly careful not to place them in situations liable to corrupt their morals. It is one of the most excellent parts of the most excellent prayer in the world, "Lead us not into temptation."

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ACCOUNT OF RICHARD OAKY, JOHN LEVEE, and MATTHEW FLOOD, who were hanged for a Robbery.

**R**ICHARD OAKY was a native of London, and bound apprentice to a taylor, with

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\* Caen-Wood is the seat of Lord Mansfield, and situated between Hampstead and Highgate.  
whom

whom he served about two years, and then running away, got into company with a set of black-guard boys who procured a miserable subsistence by picking of pockets; and then they proceeded to the practice of cutting off the pockets of women.

In order to do this effectually, one of them used to trip up the woman's heels, while the other cut off the pocket, and they generally got out of the reach of detection before the party robbed could recover her legs.

These kind of robberies were very common formerly, but of late years they have been very seldom practised.

Many of Oaky's associates belonging to Jonathan Wild's gang, that infernal villain had caused several of them to be hanged, when he could make no farther advantage of them. Having thus lost his old acquaintance, he became connected with a woman of the town, who taught him the following singular method of robbery.

They used to walk through the streets, the woman going a little before Oaky, and when she observed a lady walking near where a coach was turning, she used to catch her in her arms, crying, "Take care, madam, you will be run over;" and in the interim Oakey was certain to cut off her pocket:—but this way of life did not last long, for this abandoned woman soon after died, in consequence of some bruises she received from a fellow she had ill treated: and on her death Oaky followed the practice of snatching of pockets without a partner, and became one of the most dextrous in his profession.

Not long after this he became acquainted with several housebreakers, who persuaded him to follow their course of life, as more profitable than steal.

stealing of pockets. In the first attempt they were successful; but the second, in which two others were concerned with him, was the breaking open a shop in the Borough, from whence they stole a quantity of callimancoes; for which offence Oaky was apprehended; on which he impeached his accomplices; one of whom was hanged, and the other transported, on his evidence.

Deterred from the thoughts of house-breaking by this adventure, Oaky returned for a while to his old employment, and then became acquainted with a man called Will the sailor, when their plan of robbery was this: Will, who wore a sword, used to affront persons in the streets, and provoke them till they stripped to fight with him; and then Oaky used to decamp with their cloaths. However these associates in iniquity soon quarrelled and parted, and Oaky, who by this time was an accomplished thief, entered into Jonathan Wild's gang.

JOHN LEVEE was the son of a French gentleman who resided some time in England during the reign of king Charles the second, and taught the French language to three natural sons of that prince; but he retired to Holland, and there died, soon after the advancement of king William to the throne. Young Levee was educated at the expence of the French protestants in London, and was then bound apprentice to a captain in the royal navy.

He served as a sailor for some years, and was present at the defeat of the Spanish fleet in the Meditterrenean, in queen Anne's reign; and afterwards sailed under admiral Norris, in his fruitless expedition against the Russian fleet in the Baltick.

When the admiral came back to England, Levee's friends recommended him to the service of a merchant in Thames-street, in the capacity of under-clerk, for which he was not ill-qualified; but being of too unsettled a temper to apply himself to business, he declined this opportunity of providing for himself, and soon spent the little money he was possessed of.

Going one evening to a public-house in Holborn, he met with some thieves of Jonathan Wild's gang, who soon persuaded him to join them in their lawless depredations, which at length brought him to destruction.

MATTHEW FLOOD was the son of parents of good character, and born at Shadwell. He was apprenticed to a lighterman, with whom he lived a considerable time: but being averse to a life of labour, his master and he parted by joint consent; and soon afterwards he became acquainted with Oaky and Levee, and their dissolute companions.

The robberies committed by this gang are too numerous for recital: they were for some time the terror of travellers near London. We shall mention only one robbery exclusive of that for which they suffered.

They stopped a coach between Camberwell and London, in which were five men and a woman. The men said they would deliver their money, but begged they would not search, as the lady was with child. Among the gang was Blueskin, \* who holding a hat, received the money the passengers put into it, which appeared to be a considerable sum, but on examination it was found

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\* An account of this malefactor will appear in the following pages.

OAKY, LEVEE, & FLOOD—*for Robbery.* 315

found to be chiefly halfpence. The gang suspected that Blueskin had defrauded them, as it was not the first time he had cheated his fellow-thieves: but they were greatly mortified that they had neglected to search the coach, when they afterwards learnt that there were three hundred pounds in it.

Some time after this Oaky, Levee; Flood and Blueskin, stopped colonel Cope and Mr. Young in a carriage, on their return from Hampstead, and robbed them of their watches, rings and money. Information of this robbery was sent to Jonathan Wild, who caused the parties to be apprehended; and Blueskin being admitted an evidence, they were tried, convicted, sentenced, and ordered for execution.

After conviction their behaviour was exceedingly proper for persons in their calamitous situation. They did not flatter themselves with vain hopes of a pardon; but exerted themselves by every act of devotion, to make a proper preparation for their approaching end.

At the last scene of their lives they addressed the spectators, advising them to take warning by their fatal end.

Oaky said that what gave him more concern than all his other offences was the burning a will which he found with some money and rings in a pocket which he had cut off from a lady's side; a circumstance which had proved highly detrimental to the owner.

These offenders suffered at Tyburn, on the 8th of February, 1723.

In this, as in almost every other instance before us, we see that the ways of vice lead to destruction: to present disgrace, certain death, and perpetual infamy. We learn also the fallshood of

that common maxim that there is "honour among thieves." Oaky became an evidence against his associates, in consequence of which one of them was hanged, and the other transported. After this Blueskin became an evidence against Oaky and his two companions, all of whom suffered the utmost rigour of the law. Jonathan Wild made tools of these poor wretches for a while; and when they had run their career, he gave them up to public justice.

What a picture does this furnish of the calamitous life of a thief, who has not one friend in whom he can confide, nor can he think himself in security even for a single moment! The terrors of his conscience must for ever haunt him: sleep must fly from his eyes, and peace from his breast. The gallows must be continually in his view, and every previous hour of his life must be imbittered by reflecting on the disgraceful one that is to end it.

Shun then the paths of vice, "keep the commandments of God; and write them upon the table of thine heart. Whoso sinneth against God wrongeth his own soul; and all they that hate him love death."

Case of CHRISTOPHER LAYER, Esq. who was hanged for High-Treason.

**M**R. LAYER was born of very respectable parents, and received a liberal education, which being compleated at the University, he was entered a student of the honourable society of the Inner Temple. After the customary time he was called to the bar, entered on the profession of

of a counsellor at law, and had so much practice that he seemed to be in the high road of making a large fortune.

Francis Atterbury, bishop of Rochester, had been disabled from holding his preferments in the church, by an act of parliament passed in the year 1722, and was banished from England for life for his treasonable practices: and about this period several other persons were concerned in similar designs, among whom counsellor Layer was one of the most distinguished.

This infatuated man made a journey to Rome, where he held several conferences with the Pretender, to whom he promised that he would effect so secret a revolution in England, that no person in authority should be apprised of the scheme till it had actually taken place.

Impressed with the idea that it was possible to carry his scheme into execution, he came to England with a determination to effect it. His plan was to hire an assassin to murder the king on his return from Kensington; and this being done, the other parties engaged in the plot were to seize the guards; and the prince of Wales and his children, and the great officers of state, were to be seized and confined during the confusion that such an event would naturally produce.

Among others concerned in this strange scheme was lord Grey; an antient nobleman of the Roman Catholic religion, who died a prisoner in the Tower before the necessary legal proceedings against him could take place.

Mr. Layer having settled a correspondence with several Roman Catholics, Nonjurors, and other persons disaffected to the government, he engaged a small number of disbanded soldiers, who were to be the principal actors in the intended tragedy.

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The counsellor met these soldiers at a public-house at Stratford in Essex, where he gave them the necessary instructions for seizing the king on his return from the palace, and even fixed on the day when the plan was to be carried into execution.

Some of the people of the public-house having overheard the treasonable conversation, spoke of it publicly in the neighbourhood; and some other circumstances of suspicion arising, Mr. Layer was taken into custody by one of the king's messengers, in consequence of a warrant from the secretary of state.

At this time Mr. Layer had two women in keeping, one in Southampton Buildings, and the other in Queen-street, to both of whom he had given intimations of the scheme he had in hand. The lodgings of these women being searched, such a number of treasonable papers were found, that the intentions of the counsellor appeared evident. When he was apprized that his papers were seized, and the women bound to give evidence against him, he dispatched a messenger to the secretary of state, informing him that he would make a discovery of all he knew, if he might be permitted the use of pen, ink, and paper. This requisition was instantly complied with, and it was the prevailing opinion that he would have been admitted an evidence against his accomplices, if he had made the promised discovery: but it will appear that he had no such intention.

Behind the house of the messenger in which he was confined there was a yard, which communicated with the yard of a public-house adjoining, and Mr. Layer thought, if he could get from his confinement, it would be no difficult matter to escape through the tap-room of the ale-house,  
where



where it was not probable that he should be known.

Having digested his plan, he cut the blankets of his bed into pieces, and tied them together, and in the dusk of the evening dropped from his window; but falling on a bottle-rack in the yard, he overset it; and the noise occasioned by the breaking of the bottles was such that the family was alarmed; but Layer escaped during the confusion occasioned by this accident.

Almost distracted by the loss of his prisoner, the messenger went in search of him, and finding that he had taken a boat at the Horse-Ferry, Westminster, he crossed the water after him, pursued him through St. George's-Fields, and caught him at Newington-Butts. Having brought him back to his house, and guarded him properly for that night, he was examined by the secretary of state on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

The king and council now determined that no time should be lost in bringing Layer to a trial: wherefore a writ was issued from the Crown-Office, directed to the sheriff of Essex, commanding him to impanel a grand jury, to enquire into such bills as should be presented against the prisoner: in consequence of which the jury met at Romford, and found a bill against him for high-treason, and this bill was returnable into the Court of King's Bench.

Soon after the bill was found the trial came on before Sir John Pratt, lord chief justice, and the other judges of that court. Mr. Layer had two counsellors to plead for him, and they urged every possible argument that could be thought of in his behalf; contesting every minute circumstance with the council for the crown, during a  
trial

trial that lasted sixteen hours; but at length the jury found the prisoner guilty, after having been out of court about an hour.

When the prisoner was brought up to receive sentence, his council made another effort in his behalf, by urging the informality of some of the legal proceedings against him; but their arguments being thought insufficient, the sentence ordained by law was passed on him.

As he had some important affairs to settle, from the nature of his profession, the court did not order his execution till more than two months after he had been condemned; and the king repeatedly reprieved him, to prevent his clients being sufferers by his affairs being left in a state of confusion.

After conviction Mr. Layer was committed to the Tower, and at length the sheriffs of London and Middlesex received a warrant to execute the sentence of the law; in consequence of which he was drawn on a sledge to Tyburn, dressed in a suit of black full-trimmed, and a tye-wig.

At the place of execution he was assisted in his devotions by a nonjuring clergyman; and when these were ended, he spoke to the surrounding multitude, declaring that he deemed King James (so he called the Pretender) his lawful sovereign. He said that King George was an usurper, and damnation would be the fate of those who supported his government. He insisted that the nation would never be in a state of peace till the Pretender was restored; and therefore advised the people to take up arms in his behalf: he professed himself willing to die for the cause; and expressed great hopes that providence would effectually support the right heir to the throne on some future occasion, though himself had failed  
of

of being the happy instrument of placing him thereon.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 15th of March, 1723, and his body being quartered, his head was placed over Temple-Bar.

Mr. Layer is said to have been a man of sense, and from his education and profession, we may presume that he was a man of learning; yet his conduct was such as, one would imagine, no person above the level of an idiot could have been guilty of. The scheme he undertook was absurd in the highest degree; and his folly in revealing his sentiments to the women whom he kept, was as egregious as his guilt was glaring.

Those who preach up the nonsense of a divine indefeasible right inherent in kings, may possibly admire the madness by which this man was inspired: but Englishmen ought to be thankful that their sovereigns can govern only in conformity to the laws: laws more perfect than those which human wisdom has yet framed in any other country under Heaven. We cannot conclude this account more properly than in the words of the poet:

Remember, O my friends, the laws, the rights,  
The generous plan of power delivered down  
From age to age, by your renowned forefathers;  
O, let it never perish in your hands!  
But piously transmit it to your children!

As our best preservative from the evils of life, we are exhorted to “fear God, and honour the King;” for we are told, that “rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”

Particulars respecting WILLIAM BURK, who was hanged for Robberies.

**T**HIS offender was born of poor parents, in St. Catharine's near the Tower, and educated in the charity school of that district. The boy's temper was naturally bad, and the ill-judged fondness of his mother made it still worse, for she indulged him in all his demands however unreasonable.

This disposition made him think the discipline of the school severe; and indeed the master was obliged to be more strict with him than with the other boys.

Having reached the eleventh year of his age, he was guilty of some faults that required severe chastisement, which having received, he ran away from school, and went to the water side, enquiring for a station on board a ship. A man observing his inclination, took him down to the Nore, and put him on board the Salisbury man of war.

The mother learning where her darling boy was gone, followed him on board the ship, and endeavoured to prevail on him to return; but in vain; for the youth was obstinately bent on a seafaring life.

In about a fortnight the ship sailed for Jamaica, and during the voyage had an engagement with a Spanish galleon, which she took after a bloody and obstinate fight, in which young Burk was wounded. After this they met with another galleon, which they took without the loss of a man:—but a woman, the only one on board, having the curiosity to look on the deck, lost her life by a chain-shot, which severed her head from her body. The common men shared each fifteen pounds

pounds prize-money on these captures, but some of the principal officers got sufficient to make them easy for life.

The ship was stationed for three years in the West-Indies, during which Burk learnt the art of stealing every thing that he could secrete without detection. At Jamaica there was a woman who had been transported from Newgate some years before, but having married a planter who soon died, she was left in affluent circumstances, and took a tavern. Wanting a white servant, she prevailed on the captain to let Will attend her customers.

The boy was pleased with his new situation, and might have continued in it as long as he was on the island, but he could not refrain from defrauding his mistress; but she, who had been herself a thief, soon detected him. Hereupon he fell on his knees, and begged pardon; which was granted, but he was ordered to depart the house immediately.

Alarmed by the danger from which he had escaped, he seems to have formed a temporary resolution to live honestly in future, and with that view shipped himself for Maryland, where a merchant would have employed him, but the captain he sailed with would not permit him to accept the offer. Hence he made a voyage to the coast of Guinea, where he had a very narrow escape from being murdered by the natives, who killed several of his shipmates.

On the return of the ship from Guinea to England, the weather was so bad, that they were five months on their voyage to the port of Bristol, during which they suffered innumerable hardships. Their provisions were so reduced, that they were almost famished, the allowance of each

man for a whole day being not so much as he could eat at two mouthfuls; and at length they were obliged to fast five days successively.

However, they reached the port in safety; and notwithstanding the miseries they had endured, the captain resolved on another voyage to Guinea, in which Burk accompanied him. Having purchased a number of slaves they set sail for the West-India Islands: but during the voyage the negroes concerted a scheme to make themselves masters of the ship; and would have probably carried it into execution, but that one of their associates betrayed them, in consequence of which they were more strictly confined than they had hitherto been.

Burk sailed from the West-Indies to England, where he entered on board a man of war, and sailed up the Baltic, and afterwards to Archangel to the north of Russia, where his sufferings from the extremity of the cold, and other circumstances, were so severe, that, on his return to England, he determined to abandon the life of a sailor.

Being now quite out of all honest methods of getting his bread, he took to robbing passengers in and near Stepney, but he continued his depredations on the public only for a short time, being apprehended for committing the fourth robbery.

He was indicted at the sessions held at the Old-Bailey in February, 1723, for robbing William Fitzer on the highway; and again on the same day, for robbing James Westwood; and being found guilty on both indictments, he received sentence of death.

There was something remarkably cruel in the conduct of this malefactor; for he carried a hedge-bill with him to terrify the persons he stopped: and one old man hesitating to comply with

with his demands, he cut him so that he fell to the ground.

After conviction he became sensible of the enormity of his crimes; received the sacrament with great devotion; and declared, that if he obtained mercy from God it must be through the merits of Jesus Christ.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of April, 1723, in the 22d year of his age.

The crimes and sufferings of this unhappy wretch seem to have arisen in great measure; from his mother's unreasonable indulgence of him. It is but too common with women of the lower ranks of life to ruin their children by an extravagant tenderness. Bad habits may be often stopped in the bud, by timely correction; but, "he that spareth the rod, spoileth the child." A religious education is the best preventive remedy against a life of vice; and it would well become parents to purchase such books as are best calculated to impress the mind with a proper idea of things sacred\*.

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\* For this purpose we would earnestly recommend a book called "The HOLY BIBLE in VERSE, by JOHN FELLOWS;" which comprises the history of the Holy Bible as contained in the Old and New Testaments. This book consists of four volumes in octavo; but those whom it may not suit to purchase the whole together, may have it in 16 weekly numbers, at six pence each. It is elegantly printed, and has the advantage of being adorned with a number of fine copper-plate cuts representing the principal subjects of the sacred history. By this book being written in verse, the sacred doctrines it contains are the more forcibly impressed on the mind.

The

The adventures of this malefactor naturally lead us to say something of the slave-trade; a trade, which is a disgrace to this kingdom, as it militates against all the rights of humanity. Can any man in his senses suppose that the complexion of his fellow-creature can operate in his disfavour with that Almighty Being who has created all the universe, and is equally the father of all persons of all complexions. To suppose that a black man is less the object of the Divine favour than one of a lighter cast, is an affront to that God who is the author of light and of darkness; and in spite of all that can be urged in favour of the slave-trade, we know that it is founded in avarice, carried on in cruelty, and ought to end in the destruction of those who practise it.

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Singular Case of ALEXANDER DAY, who was convicted of defrauding several Tradesmen.

**I**N modern times we have had several instances of villains who have proceeded on a similar plan with Day; but as few of them have cut so great a figure, nor any of them met with a fate exactly similar, we shall be the more particular in our account of this artful villain.

Day was a professed sharper, who pretended to be a man of fortune. He assumed the title of Marmaduke Davenport, Esq. and taking a large house in Queen's-Square, asserted that he possessed a capital estate in the north of England.

He had a footman who seems to have been an accomplice with him. This man he sent to a livery-stable, to enquire the price of a pair of horses, which he himself afterwards agreed to purchase,



purchase, and then desired the stable-keeper to recommend him a coachman, a man rather lusty, as he had a suit of livery cloaths of a large size by him.

The man was accordingly recommended, but when the livery was tried on, Day observed that as they did not fit him, he would send into the country for his own coachman; but this objection was obviated by the footman, who saying that the cloaths would fit with a small alteration, the Squire consented to hire the man.

When the stable-keeper saw the coachman, he had recommended, he enquired to what places he had driven his new master; and being informed, to the duke of Montague's, and other persons of rank, he seemed satisfied; though he had begun to form ideas unfavourable to his new customer.

Mr. Day having kept his coach and horses something more than a week, gave orders to be driven to a coffee-house in Red Lion Square, where he drank half a pint of wine at the bar, and asked if some gentlemen were come, whom he expected to supper. Being answered in the negative, he went out at the back door, without paying for his wine, and said he would return in a few minutes. The coachman waited a long time, but his master not coming back, he drove to the stable-keeper's, who seemed glad to have recovered his property out of such dangerous hands.

It seems that Day made no small use of this coach while it was in his possession. He drove to the shop of a lace merchant named Gravestock, and asked for some Spanish-point: but the dealer having none of that kind by him, the Squire ordered fifty-five pounds worth of gold lace to be sent to his house in Queen's-Square. When Gravestock's servant carried the lace, Day desired  
him

him to tell his master to call, as he was in want of lace for some rich liveries, but he must speak with his taylor before he could ascertain the quantity wanted. Mr. Gravestock attended his new customer, who gave him so large an order for lace, that if he had executed it, he must have been a very considerable loser, and the 'Squire's liveries would have been gayer than those of any nobleman in London: however, on the following day, he carried some lace of the sort he had left before; nor did he forget to take his bill with him; but the person who should have paid it was decamped.

The next trick practised by our adventurer was as follows: he went to the house of Mr. Markham, a goldsmith, and ordered a gold equipage worth 50*l*. Markham carried home the equipage, and had the honour to drink tea with the supposed Mr. Davenport, who ordered other curious articles, and among the rest a chain of gold for his squirrel.

Mr. Markham observing that the squirrel wore a silver chain, which he had sold to a lady not long before, began to suspect his new customer; and waiting on the lady, enquired if she knew Marmaduke Davenport, Esq.—She answered in the negative; on which Markham mentioned the circumstance that had arisen, and described the person of the defrauder. The lady now recollected him, and said that his name was Alexander Day, and that he had cheated her of property to a considerable amount. In consequence of this information, Markham arrested the sharper, and recovered his property.

On another occasion Day went in his carriage to the shop of a linen-draper named Schrimshaw; agreed for linen to the amount of 48*l*. and ordered

dered a large quantity to be sent to his house on the following day, when he would pay for the whole. The first parcel was delivered; but the purchaser was decamped when the linen-draper went with the second.

After this he went to the shop of a tea-dealer named Kendrick, and ordered tea to the amount of 26l. The tea was sent in, and the proprietor called for payment, when Day gave him orders for a farther quantity, which he pretended to have forgot before; and told him to call the next morning, when he should be paid for it by the steward. The honest tea-dealer called the next day, but neither the 'squire nor the steward were to be found.

His next adventure was contrived to defraud Mr. Hinchcliffe, a silk mercer. Day going to his shop in his absence, left word for him to call at his house to receive a large order. The mercer went, and saw a carriage at the door, and being told that the 'squire had company, he waited a short time, during which the servants took care to inform him that Mr. Davenport, was the son of a baronet of Yorkshire, and possessed a large fortune in that county.

When he saw the supposed Mr. Davenport, he was told that he wanted some valuable silks, and wished that a quantity might be sent, for him to select such as he approved. Mr. Hinchcliffe said that the choice would be much better made by fixing on the patterns at his shop.

Hereupon Day took the mercer in his coach, and on their way he talked of his father Sir Marmaduke, and of other people of rank; and said he was on the point of marriage with the daughter of counsellor Ward, and as he should be under

a necessity of furnishing a house in London, he should want mercery goods to a large amount.

When they came to the mercer's shop, Day selected as many damasks, &c. for bed furniture and hangings, as were worth a thousand pounds. It looks as if Hinchcliffe had now some suspicion; for he told him that the ladies were best judges of such articles, and asked if he had not a lady of his acquaintance, whom he could consult. He readily answered that he had, and mentioned a lady Davenport as his relation, saying, "send the silks to my house, and I will take her opinion of them."

Mr. Hinchcliffe said he would send them, and permitted him to take with him two pieces of brocade worth about thirty pounds: but desirous to know more of his customer before he trusted him with the whole property, he went to counsellor Ward, and found that his daughter was already married to a gentleman of the name of Davenport. Hereupon the mercer went to the house of the supposed esquire, but he was gone off with what property he had obtained.

It was likewise discovered that our adventurer having casually met, at a coffee-house, the Mr. Davenport who had married the daughter of counsellor Ward, had prevailed on him to call him cousin, on the pretence that they must be related, because, as he alledged, their coats of arms were the same.

After a course of fraud Day was taken into custody in the month of May, 1723, on suspicion of his having robbed the mail; but it proved that he was not the man: however, there were six indictments brought against him for the defrauds.

In his defence he pleaded that his intention was to have paid for the goods he had purchased  
on

on credit; and he asserted that he possessed an estate in the county of Durham, which he had mortgaged for 1200*l.* but no credit could be given to his allegations; nor, even if he had possessed such an estate, would it have appeared that he acted on an honest principle.

After a fair trial he was convicted, and sentenced to suffer two years imprisonment in Newgate, to stand twice in the pillory, to pay a fine of two hundred pounds, and to give security for his good behaviour for two years after the term of his imprisonment should he expired.

This fellow was one of those abandoned miscreants whom modern times have distinguished by the name of Swindlers\*; and of all men breathing they seem to be the most destitute of principle; they literally “go about seeking whom they may devour.” It is astonishing that tradesmen should be so frequently duped by the artifices of these villains; since scarce a week passes in which the newspapers do not give an account of some of the tricks by which they impose on the unwary.

As it is one professed design of this publication to guard innocent people against the schemes of the artful and designing, we would earnestly recommend it to the people in trade, never to give credit to strangers from the speciousness of their appearance, or the plausibility of their behaviour.

The villain who can defraud a coachmaker out of a carriage, or even raise money to hire one of

\* *Swindler* is a German word, the meaning of which exactly corresponds with the idea we affix to the character;—that of a man who strives to take in all the world by artifice.

an elegant appearance, has nothing to do but take genteel lodgings, and put an accomplice or two into livery, and his scheme usually succeeds. The splendid appearance of the supposed master, and the artful puffs of the servants, generally serve to lull suspicion asleep.

When enquiry is made into the character of a person who is supposed to be a man of honour and fortune, the enquirer should consider whether the person who gives him this character is deserving of that of an honest man: for these artful rogues, when they find any person is suspicious of them, have a method of referring to as great rogues as themselves for a character. The tradesman, then, who would not be imposed on, should take characters only from respectable people, who will never deceive him, unless they have been deceived themselves.

The being exposed in the pillory is very inadequate to the punishment, much less to the cure, of this crime. The wretches themselves are dead to all sense of shame; few persons see their faces so perfectly as to recollect them; and when the term of their imprisonment is expired, they put on a gay suit of cloaths, and begin to make fresh depredations on the public.

Since the passing the act of parliament for making criminals labour on board the ballast lighters, these defrauders have been sent to Woolwich for certain times, proportioned (as the court before whom they are tried may think) to the enormity of their crimes: but being too idle and too wicked to earn their bread in an honest manner, it must be expected that they will renew their old trade, as soon as they obtain their liberty. What seems to be wanting to prevent this crime, so destructive to the honest tradesman, is a law to punish

nish these swindlers by labour, on board the ballast-lighters or otherwise, FOR LIFE. This must prove effectual. The idle rascal, who seeks to live in splendor by preying on the public, would give over trade, if he was certain that perpetual imprisonment, hard fare, and unremitted labour, would be the consequence of continuing it.

It is even probable that such kind of punishment would tend greatly to the prevention of every species of felony; and the compilers of this work humbly submit to the wisdom of the legislature the propriety of making the experiment. If the law should be found inadequate to the proposed end, it would be easy to repeal it: but it seems very reasonable to think that perpetual imprisonment would terrify more than death. The man who does not dread the gallows, would dread to be a slave for life.

In the mean time, however, let it be remembered, that a life of vice is a life of perpetual anxiety; and that the readiest way to be happy is to be virtuous.

Narrative of the Trial of SARAH PRIDDON, otherwise called SALLY SALISBURY, who was convicted of an Assault.

ON the 24th of April, 1723, Sarah Priddon was indicted at the Old Bailey, for making a violent assault on the honourable J—F—, Esq. and stabbing him with a knife, in his left breast, and giving him a wound of which he long languished, with an intent to kill and murder him.

Mrs.

Mrs. Priddon, or rather Salisbury (for that was the name by which she was best known), was a woman of the town, who was well acquainted with the gentleman whom she wounded. It appeared on the trial that Mr. F— having gone to the Three Tuns Tavern in Chandos-street, Covent-garden, about midnight, Sally followed him thither soon afterwards. The drawer, after he had waited on Mr. F—, went to bed; but at two in the morning he was called up, to draw a pint of Fontiniac for Mrs. Salisbury. This he did, and carried it to her, with a French roll, and a knife. The prisoner was now in company and conversation with Mr. F—, and the drawer heard them disputing about an Opera ticket which he had presented to her sister; and while they were talking she stabbed him; on which he put his hand to his breast, and said, “Madam, you “ have wounded me.”

No sooner had she committed the fact than she appeared sincerely to regret what she had done: she sent for a surgeon, who finding it necessary to extend the wound, that the blood might flow outwardly, she seemed terrified, and calling out, “O Lord! what are you doing?” fainted away.

On her recovery she asked Mr. F— how he did; to which he answered, “Very bad, and “ worse than you imagine.” She endeavoured to console him in the best manner she could, and after some time, the parties went away in separate chairs; but not till the wounded gentleman had forgiven her, and saluted her, as a token of that forgiveness.

The counsel for the prisoner endeavoured to prove that she had no intention of wounding him with malice *prepense*; and that what she did arose from  
from



from a sudden start of passion, the consequence of his having given an Opera ticket to her sister, with a view to ingratiate her affections, and debauch her.

The counsel for the crown ridiculed this idea, and insinuated, that a woman of Mrs. Salisbury's character could not be supposed to have any very tender regard to her sister's reputation. They allowed that Mr. F— had readily forgiven her at the time; but insisted that this was a proof of the placability of his temper, and no argument in her favour.

They said, that if the gentleman had died of the wound, she would have been deemed guilty of murder, as she had not received the least provocation to commit the crime; and that the event made no difference with respect to the malignity of her intentions.

The jury having considered the circumstances of the case, found her guilty of assaulting and wounding Mr. F—; but acquitted her of doing it with an intent to kill and murder him. In consequence hereof she was sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred pounds, to be imprisoned for a year, and then to find security for her good behaviour for two years.

She was tried in May, 1723, but when she had suffered about nine months imprisonment. she died in Newgate, and was buried in the church-yard of St. Andrew, Holborn.

The case of the unhappy woman who has been the subject of this narrative will afford matter for serious reflection. She had been acquainted with the gentleman whom she stabbed, and there is nothing ungenerous in supposing that their acquaintance was of the criminal kind.

It was insinuated by the counsel for the crown that it could not be supposed that Mrs. Salisbury had any regard for the reputation of her sister. But why so? It is to be presumed that a woman of any sensibility, who had been unhappy enough to forfeit her own character, should become the more anxious to preserve that of one to whom she was bound by the ties of consanguinity. It does not follow that, because a woman has failed in the great article of personal chastity, she must therefore be deficient in every other virtue that can adorn the female mind.

Too frequently, indeed, it happens that women in this predicament become dead to all those finer feelings that do honour to their sex in particular, and to humanity in general. But then what shall be said of those men who reduce them to a situation so calamitous? Will the sudden impulse of passion be pleaded in mitigation of a crime which, in its consequences, almost always detaches a woman from the company of the virtuous of her own sex, and renders her, in a great degree, an outcast of society?

If there be any truth in the common opinion that women in general are weaker than men; it follows of course that the wisest ought to be the most virtuous; and that the man who seduces a woman, is more criminal in that act, than she is in yielding to the seduction: yet so ungenerous is the vulgar opinion, that a woman for ever loses her character in consequence of an offence which is hardly deemed criminal in a man. Agreeable hereto are the sentiments of the poet:

— Man, the lawless libertine, may rove  
Free and unquestioned through the wilds of love:  
But

But woman, sense and nature's easy fool,  
 If poor, weak, woman swerve from virtue's rule,  
 If strongly charmed, she tempt the flowery way,  
 And in the softer paths of pleasure stray,  
 Ruin ensues, remorse, and endless shame;  
 And one false step entirely damns her fame:  
 In vain with tears the loss she may deplore,  
 In vain look back to what she was before;  
 She sets, like stars that fall, to rise no more.

It is no credit to the humanity of the age that this should be the fact; but as it is the fact, it should teach young women to be always on their guard for the protection of their chastity; remembering that if that be once lost, it can never be recovered; that it is a jewel of the highest price, and that, in most instances, the contamination of the mind follows the violation of the person, and must, of consequence, produce a long series of wretchedness.

Case of WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH, who was executed for Murder.

**T**HIS malefactor was a native of Yorkshire, and born of reputable parents, who gave him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a considerable trade; but being of a disposition too unsettled to think of business, he enlisted for a soldier, in the hope of being promoted in the army.

After he had served some time, and found himself disappointed in his expectation of preferment, he made interest to obtain his discharge

and then entered into the service of a gentleman with whom he behaved in a proper manner for a considerable time; but not being content with his situation, he repaired to London; and again enlisted as a soldier, in the foot-guards.

In this station he remained four years, during two of which he was servant to the colonel, who entertained a very good opinion of him; till an incident, which unexpectedly arose, occasioned the crime for which he suffered. Before we relate the particulars, it will be proper to remark that at the period of which we are writing, party disputes ran very high, and the soldiers were frequently the subjects of the contempt and derision of the populace.

While Hawksworth was marching, with other soldiers, to relieve the guard in St. James's Park a man named Ransom, who had a woman in his company, jostled him, and cried, "What a stir is here about king George's soldiers!" Hawksworth, imagining the woman had incited him to this behaviour, quitted his rank, and gave her a blow on the face. Irritated hereby, Ransom called him a puppy, and demanded the reason of his behaviour to the woman.

The term of reproach enraged Hawksworth to such a degree; that he knocked the other down with his musket, and then the soldiers marched on to relieve the guard. In the mean time a croud of people gathered round Ransom, and finding he was much wounded, put him in a chair, and sent him to a surgeon, who examined him, and found his skull fractured to such a degree, that there were no hopes of his recovery; and he died in a few hours.

Hereupon a person who had been witness to what passed in the Park, went to the Savoy, and  
having

having learnt the name of the offender, caused Hawksworth to be taken into custody, and he was committed to Newgate. Being brought to his trial at the following sessions, the colonel whom he had served gave him an excellent character; but the facts were so clearly proved, that the jury could not do otherwise than convict him, and judgment of death passed accordingly.

For some time after sentence he flattered himself with the hope of a reprieve; but when the warrant for his execution arrived, he seemed to give up all hopes for life, and seriously prepared himself to meet his fate. He solemnly averred that Ransom struck him first, and said he did not recollect the circumstance of leaving his rank to strike the blow that occasioned the death of the other. He declared that he had no malice against the deceased, and therefore thought himself acquitted in his own mind of the crime of murder.

However, he behaved in a very contrite manner, and received the sacrament, with signs of the sincerest devotion. A few minutes before he was executed he made a speech to the surrounding multitude, advising them to keep a strict guard over their passions: he lamented the situation of the common soldiers, who are considered as cowards if they do not resent an injury, and if they do, are liable to endure legal punishment for the consequences that may arise from such resentment. However, he advised his brethren of the army to submit with patience to the indignities that might be offered, and trust to the goodness of God to recompence their sufferings.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 17th of June, 1723, at the age of 27 years.

Though nothing can justify the crime of which this man was guilty, yet an useful lesson may be learnt from his fate. The situation of our common soldiers is sufficiently lamentable, and no person should seek to make their lives more calamitous by insult. The poor fellow who does duty by night and by day; who is subject to all the strictness of military discipline, and liable at any time to be called forth, the mark of a bullet; and all this for less than is sufficient for his support, even on the coarsest food, is certainly an object of our commiseration. We should therefore pity the distressed, and not seek to add misfortune to the miserable.

Although the crime for which Hawksworth suffered is such as ought not to be pardoned; yet the eye of humanity will drop a tear for the fate of a man who thought himself instigated to strike the fatal blow, little considering, at that moment that it would have proved fatal. Hence let us learn to guard against the first impulse of passion; to reflect that reason was given us for the moderation of our passions; and that the higher considerations of religion ought to be a perpetual restraint on those violent emotions of the mind which, in numerous instances beside the present, have led to destruction. That man is guilty of an egregious folly, as well as an enormous crime, who will permit the taunting words or aggravating actions of another, to tempt him to the commission of murder. Then let us be perpetually on our guard, remembering that

Hard names at first, and threat'ning words,

That are but noisy breath,

May grow to clubs and naked swords,

To murder and to death.

Particulars respecting THOMAS ATHOE, Senior, and THOMAS ATHOE, Junior, who were hang-  
for Murder.

THE crime for which these men were tried was committed in Pembroke-shire; but they were removed by a writ of habeas corpus to Hereford, where, on the 19th of March, 1723, they were indicted for the murder of George Merchant, by beating and kicking him on the head, face breast, &c. on the 23d of November, 1722, and thereby giving him several mortal wounds and bruises, of which he died the same day.

Athoe the elder was a native of Carew in Pembroke-shire, where he reaped above a hundred pounds per annum, and had lived in such a respectable way; that in the year 1721 he was chosen mayor of Tenby, and his son a bailiff of the same corporation; though they did not live in this place, but at Mannerbeer, two miles distant from it.

George Merchant, who was murdered, and his brother Thomas, were nephews, by the mother's side, to the elder Athoe, their father having married his sister.

On the 23d of November, 1722, a fair was held at Tenby, where the prisoners went to sell cattle, and there met with the deceased and his brother Thomas Merchant; and a quarrel arose between the younger Athoe and George Merchant, on an old grudge respecting their right to part of an estate; when a battle ensued, in which the deceased had the advantage, and beat young Athoe. The elder Athoe taking the advice of an attorney on what had passed, he would have persuaded him to bring an action; to which he replied,

plied, "No, no, we won't take the law, but we'll pay them in their own coin."

Late in the evening, after the fair was ended, the deceased and his brother left the town; but the Athoes going to the inn, enquired of the ostler which way they were gone. He gave them the best information in his power, on which they immediately mounted and followed them. The brothers stopped on the road, at a place called Holloway's water, to let their horses drink. In the mean time they heard the footsteps of other horses behind them, and turning about, saw two men riding at a small distance. It was too dark for them to know the parties, but they presently heard the voice of Old Athoe.

Knowing that he had sworn revenge, and dreading the consequence that would probably ensue, they endeavoured to conceal themselves behind a bridge, but they were discovered by the splashing their horses feet made in the water. The Athoes riding up with large sticks, the younger said to George Merchant, "I owe thee a pass, and now thou shalt have it;" and immediately knocked him off his horse.

In the interim old Athoe attacked Thomas Merchant, and beat him likewise from his horse, calling out at the same time, "Kill the dogs! kill the dogs!" The brothers begged hard for their lives; but they pleaded to those who had no idea of pity. The elder Athoe seized Thomas Merchant in the tenderest part, and squeezed him in so violent a manner, that human nature could not long have sustained the pain; while the younger Athoe treated George Merchant in a similar way, and carried his revenge to such a length, that it is not possible to relate the horrid deed with decency; and when he had completed



his execrable purpose, he called out to his father, saying, “ Now I have done George Merchant’s business.”

A great effusion of blood was the consequence of his barbarity; but it appears that his savage revenge was not yet glutted; for, seizing the deceased by the nose with his teeth, he bit it off, and then strangled him, by tying a handkerchief tight round his neck.

This being done, the murderers quitted the spot; but some persons coming by, took the Merchants to an adjacent house, and sent for a surgeon, who dressed the wounds of Thomas, but found that George was dead: and the surgeon declared that the blows he received were sufficient to have killed six or seven men; for he had two bruises on his breast, three large ones on his head, and twenty-two on his back.

The elder Athoe was taken into custody on the following day, but the son had fled to Ireland; however, those who had been concerned in favouring his escape, were glad to use their endeavours to get him back again.

On the trial, the principal evidence against them was the surviving brother; who was even then so weak as to be indulged to sit down while he gave his evidence: but the jury, though satisfied of the commission of the murder, entertained a doubt whether the prisoners could be legally tried in any county but that in which the crime was committed; on which they brought in a special verdict; whereupon the case was referred to the determination of the twelve judges; and the prisoners being brought up to London, were committed to the King’s Bench Prison, where they remained till the 22d of June, 1723, and were then taken to the court of King’s Bench in Westminster-

minster-Hall; when a motion being made by counsel in arrest of judgment, the court directed that an act of the 33d of Henry the 8th should be read, in which is a clause, ordaining that “ All  
 “ murders and robberies committed in, on, or  
 “ about the borders of Wales, shall be triable in  
 “ any county in England; where the criminal  
 “ shall be taken; and that the court of King’s  
 “ Bench shall have power to remove by writ of  
 “ habeas corpus, any prisoner confined in Wales,  
 “ to the next county in England to be tried.”

In consequence hereof, the court proceeded to give judgment, and the prisoners were remanded to the King’s-Bench Prison.

Between this and the time of their execution they were visited by Mr. Dyche, the chaplain of the prison, and by several other divines. They continued to flatter themselves with the hope of life, till the warrant came down for their execution; and endeavoured to extenuate their crime by a variety of frivolous pretences respecting disputes between them and the deceased.

On the 28th of June they received the sacrament with great devotion, and did the same again on the morning of their execution. Their behaviour at the place of death may not be improperly given nearly in the words of the minister who attended them. “ On Friday the 5th of  
 “ July, 1723, about eleven o’clock in the morn-  
 “ ing, they were conveyed in a cart to the place  
 “ of execution. When they came to the fatal  
 “ tree they behaved themselves in a very de-  
 “ cent manner, embracing each other with the  
 “ utmost tenderness and affection; and indeed  
 “ the son’s hiding his face, bedewed with tears,  
 “ in his father’s bosom, was, notwithstanding  
 “ the

“ the barbarous action they had committed, a  
 “ very moving spectacle.”

“ They begged of all good people to take  
 “ warning by their ignominious death; and were  
 “ turned off, crying, Lord have mercy upon us!  
 “ Christ have mercy upon us! The bodies were  
 “ brought from the place of execution in two  
 “ hearses, to the Falcon Inn, in Southwark, in  
 “ order to be buried in St. George’s Church-  
 “ Yard.”

They were executed at a place called St. Thomas’s Watering, a little beyond Kent-street in Surry, the father being fifty-eight years old, and the son within one day of twenty-four, at the time of their deaths.

We shall seldom hear of a murder so barbarous, so deliberate, so unprovoked as this in question. Little, surely, need be said to deter any of our readers from the slightest idea of being guilty of a crime of so atrocious a nature; nor need we add any thing to our former remarks on so heinous an offence as that of embruining our hands in the blood of our fellow-creatures. Be it sufficient to remark that there is a just God who judgeth the earth, and that all our most secret actions are open to his sight. From his view our most careful precautions cannot screen, nor can the darkness of night cover us. Let us then learn so to conduct ourselves, as not to blush to stand in the presence of our God! Happy the man who supported by religious considerations, can arrive at this degree of Christian fortitude; which nothing can inspire but a firm persuasion that through the goodness of his Creator, and divine grace assisting, he has been enabled to preserve a conscience void of offence towards God and man.

Singular Case of Captain JOHN MASSY, who was hanged for Piracy.

**T**HIS unhappy man, whose misfortunes seem to claim singular compassion, was the son of a gentleman of fortune in the country, who gave him a genteel education; but the disposition of the young man not being sufficiently solid to admit his living quietly at home, his father procured him a commission in the army, and he served with great applause as a lieutenant under the command of the Duke of Marlborough, during the wars in Flanders, in the reign of queen Anne.

On his return to England he conducted himself for some time with great decency; but at length became acquainted with a woman of bad character, to whom he was so much attached that he would undoubtedly have married her, if his father, who got intelligence of the affair, had not happily broke off the connection.

Not long after this he went with his regiment to Ireland, where he lived for some time in a course of continued debauchery; but at length he got appointed to the rank of lieutenant and engineer to the Royal African Company, and sailed in one of their ships to direct the building a fort. The ship being ill-supplied with provisions, and those of the worst kind, the sufferings of the crew were inexpressibly great: every officer on board died except Massey, and many of the soldiers likewise fell a sacrifice to the scandalous neglect.

Those who lived to get on shore drank so greedily of the fresh water, that they were thrown into fluxes, which destroyed them in the most rapid  
man-

manner; till at length only captain Maffey and a very few of his people were left alive; and these, being totally unable to build a fort, and seeing no prospect of relief, began to abandon themselves to despair: but at this time a vessel happening to come near the shore, they made signals of distress, on which a boat was sent off to their relief.

They were no sooner on board than they found the vessel was a pirate; and, distressed as they had been, too hastily engaged in their lawless plan, rather than run the hazard of perishing on shore. Sailing from hence they took several prizes; and though the persons made prisoners were not used with cruelty, Mr. Maffey had so true a sense of the illegality of the proceedings in which he was concerned, that his mind was perpetually tormented with the idea of the fatal consequences that might ensue.

At length the ship reached Jamaica, when Mr. Maffey seized the first opportunity of deserting; and repairing to the governor, he gave such information, that the crew of the pirate vessel was taken into custody, convicted and hanged. Maffey might have been provided for by the governor, who treated him with singular respect; on account of his services to the public; but he declined his generous offers, through an anxiety to visit his native country.

On his sailing for England the governor gave his recommendatory letters to the lords of the Admiralty; but astonishing as it may seem, instead of being caressed, he was taken into custody, and committed till a session of Admiralty was held for his trial, when he pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death.

As his case was remarkable, the public entertained

tained no doubt but that he would have been pardoned: but a warrant was sent for his execution, and he made the most solemn preparation for his approaching fate.

Two clergymen attended him at the place of execution, where he freely acknowledged his sins in general, was remarkable fervent in his devotions, and seemed perfectly resigned to his fatal destiny.—He suffered at Execution-dock, on the 26th of July 1723.

Mysterious are the ways of providence! To the view of short-sighted mortals it will appear that this man ought not to have suffered: but heaven thought otherwise; and “shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

It seems astonishing that Mr. Massey should plead guilty at his trial, when his joining the pirates was evidently an act of necessity, not of choice; and when his subsequent conduct at Jamaica proves that he took the earliest opportunity to abandon his late companions, and bring them to justice: a conduct by which he seems to have merited the thanks of his country, rather than the vengeance of the laws.

It is almost impossible to quit this subject, on which a volume might be written, without once more remarking on the savage inhumanity of that accursed traffic to Africa, the slave trade; a trade that is born to avarice, and nursed in blood! The English nation ought to give up its boasted claim to humanity, till this trade be abolished; and we should blush at the idea of punishing a pirate, while we openly permit a traffic that counteracts all the laws of benevolence. Shame on the people! Shame on the legislators! that can longer permit the continuance of a practice so much more than hellish:—a practice which fiends would  
blush

flush to think of: but the day of retribution may be nearer that we imagine: the *present* state \* of Great Britain bears not the most favourable aspect; and those who are dead to all feeling for the sufferings of others, may perhaps be alive to their own —“*Vengeance is mine, and I will repay,* saith the “*Lord.*”

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Particulars respecting PHILIP ROCHE, who was hanged for Piracy.

**T**HIS atrocious malefactor was a native of Ireland, and being brought up to a sea-faring life, served for a considerable time on board some coasting vessels, and then sailed to Barbadoes on board a West-Indiaman; and here he endeavoured to procure the place of clerk to a factor; but failing in this, he went again to sea, and was advanced to the station of a first mate.

He now became acquainted with a fisherman named Neale, who hinted to him that large sums of money might be acquired for insuring ships, and then causing them to be sunk, to defraud the insurers.

Roche was wicked enough to listen to this horrid tale, and becoming acquainted with a gentleman who had a ship bound to Cape-Breton, he got a station on board, next in command to the captain, who having an high opinion of him, trusted the ship to his management, directing the seamen to obey his commands.

If Roche had entertained any idea of sinking the ship, he seemed now to have abandoned it; but he had brought on board with him five Irish-

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\* This was written on the 2d of June 1778.

men who were concerned in the shocking tragedy that ensued:

When they had been only a few days at sea, the plan was executed as follows. One night, when the captain and most of the crew were asleep, Roche gave orders to two of the seamen to furl the sails; which being immediately done, the poor fellows no sooner descended to the deck, than Roche and his hellish associates murdered them, and threw them overboard. At this instant a man and a boy at the yard-arm observed what past, and dreading a similar fate, hurried toward the topmast-head, when one of the Irishmen, named Cullen, followed them, and seizing the boy, threw him into the sea. The man, thinking to effect at least a present escape, descended to the main deck, where Roache instantly seized, and murdered him, and then threw him overboard.

The noise occasioned by these transactions alarmed the sailors below, they hurried up with all possible expedition; but they were severally seized and murdered as fast as they came on deck, and being first knocked on the head, were thrown into the sea. At length the master and mate came on the quarter deck, when Roche and his villainous companions seized them, and tying them ack to back, committed them to the merciless waves.

These execrable murderers being perpetrated, the murderers ransacked the chests of the deceased, and then sat down to regale themselves with liquor; and while the profligate crew were carousing, they determined to commence pirates, and that Roche should be the captain, as the reward of his superior villainy.

They



The had intended to have sailed up the gulph of St. Lawtence; but as they were within a few days sail of the British channel when the bloody tragedy was acted, and finding themselves short of provisions, they put into Portsmouth, and giving the vessel a fictitious name, they painted her a-fresh, and then sailed for Rotterdam. At this city they disposed of their cargo, and took in a fresh one. Here they were unknown; and an English gentleman, named Annesley, shipped considerable property on board, and took his passage with them for the port of London: but the villains threw this unfortunate gentleman overboard, after they had been only one day at sea.

When the ship arrived in the river Thames Mr. Annesley's friends made enquiry after him, in consequence of his having sent letters to England, describing the ship in which he proposed to embark; but Roche denied having any knowledge of the gentleman; and even disclaimed his own name.

Notwithstanding his confident assertions it was rightly presumed who he was, and a letter which he sent to his wife being stopped, he was taken into custody. Being carried before the secretary of state for examination, he averred that he was not Philip Roche; and said that he knew no person of that name. Hereupon the intercepted letter was shewn him, on which he instantly confessed his crimes, and was immediately committed to take his trial at the next Admiralty sessions.

It was intimated to Roche that he might expect a pardon, if he would impeach any three persons who were more culpable than himself, so that they might be prosecuted to conviction: but not being able to do this, he was brought to his trial;

trial, and found guilty, judgment of death was awarded against him.

After conviction he professed to be of the Roman Catholic faith, but was certainly no bigot to that religion; since he attended the devotions according to the Protestant form. He was hanged at Execution Dock on the 5th of August, 1723, but was so ill at the time that he could not make any public declaration of the abhorrence of the crime for which he suffered.

It is impossible to read this shocking narrative without execrating the very memory of the wretches whose crimes give rise to it. History has not furnished us with any account of what became of the wicked accomplices of Roche; but there can be little doubt of their having dragged on a miserable existence, if they did not end their lives at the gallows.

The mind of the guilty must be perpetually racked with torments; and the murderer who is permitted to live does but live in wretchedness and despair. His days must be filled with anxiety, and his nights with torture.

From the fate of the miserable subject of this narrative let our sailors be taught that an honest pursuit of the duties of their station is more likely to ensure happiness to them, than the possession of any sum of money unlawfully obtained. Our brave tars are not, from their situation in life, much accustomed to the attendance on religious duties: but it can cost them no trouble to recollect, that to "do justice and love mercy" is equally the character of the brave man and the christian; that a delight in wrong and robbery argues the greatest folly, and commonly ends in bitter remorse; and tho' "men may live fools, yet "fools they cannot die."

The Cases of WILLIAM DUCE, and JAMES BUTLER, who were hanged for Robbery:

**D**UCE was a native of Wolverhampton, and by trade a buckle-maker, which he followed some time in London; but being imprisoned in Newgate for debt, he there made connections which greatly tended to the corruption of his manners.

He was no sooner at large than he commenced foot-pad, and, in company with another man, robbed a gentleman in Chelsea Fields of four guineas: after this he connected himself with John Dyer, and James Butler, in concert with whom he committed a variety of robberies. Their plan was to go out together, but one only to attack the party intended to be robbed; but to give a signal for his accomplices to come up, if any resistance should be made.

After committing a variety of robberies in the neighbourhood of London, they joined in a scheme with four other villains to rob lady Chudleigh, between Hyde Park Corner and Kensington: but her ladyship's footman shot one of the gang, named Rice, through the head, which prevented the intended depredation.

Their robberies had now been so numerous, that the neighbourhood of London became unsafe for them; wherefore they went on the Portsmouth road, where they committed a variety of robberies, and even proceeded to the perpetration of murder, with a view to prevent detection.

Meeting Mr. Bunch, a farmer, near a wood on the road side, they robbed him of his money, and then dragging him into the wood, they stripped

him and Duce firing at him with a pistol, the ball lodged in his mouth.

They now imagined the man was dead, and were about to depart, when Mr. Bunch turning, Butler loaded another pistol, in order to dispatch him; on which he begged that they would yet spare his life; but finding that they entertained no sentiments of compassion, he exerted all his strength, and springing on his legs, ran off, and alarming the inhabitants of an adjacent village; immediate pursuit was made after the villains, all of whom were apprehended except Duce, who escaped, and got to London.

Darker, Wade, and Meads, three of the gang, were hanged at Winchester: but Butler was sent to take his trial at the Old Bailey, for robberies committed in the county of Middlesex.

JAMES BUTLER was the son of reputable parents of the parish of St. Ann, Soho, and apprenticed to a silversmith; but being of an ungovernable disposition, his parents were obliged to send him to sea. After making several voyages, as an apprentice to the captain, he ran from the ship at Boston in New-England, and went to New-York, where he entered on board another ship, from which he likewise ran away, and embarked in a third vessel, bound to Martinico. This he also quitted, on a dispute with the captain, and then sailed to Jamaica, where he was impressed into the royal navy, and served under the celebrated admiral Vernon.

On his return to England, he married a girl of Wapping, and having soon spent the little money he brought home with him, he engaged with the gang we have mentioned, with whom he was likewise concerned in several robberies

These

These appear to have been very desperate villains. On the road to Gravesend they stopped four gentlemen, who refusing to be robbed, Meads (one of those hanged at Winchester,) shot a servant who attended them, in the breast, so that he died in a few days. Disappointed of their booty in this attempt, their passions were so irritated, that, meeting a gentleman on horseback, they fired, and wounded him in the head and breast, and the next day he expired.

They committed other robberies attended with circumstances of cruelty; but it will be now proper to mention those for which they suffered: Butler having been acquitted at the Old Bailey, of the crime for which he was transmitted from Winchester, he and Duce and Dyer immediately renewed their depredations on the road. Meeting Mr. Holmes near Buckingham-house, they robbed him of his money, hat, and handkerchief; which laid the foundation of one of the indictments against them.

On the following evening they stopped a hackney coachman near Hampstead, and robbed him of nine shillings, after the coachman had told them that the words, "stand and deliver," were sufficient to hang a man. Jonathan Wild being informed of these robberies, caused the offenders to be apprehended, at a house kept by Duce's sister.

Dyer being admitted an evidence, Duce and Butler were brought to their trial, when the latter pleaded guilty to both the indictments; and the former, after spending some time in denying the robberies, and arraigning the conduct of Jonathan Wild, was found guilty, and both of them received sentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was more resigned and devout than could have been expected from men whose repeated crimes might be supposed to have hardened their hearts; but death appeared to them in all its horrors. Butler was a Roman Catholic, and Duce a Protestant. The latter was urged by the Ordinary to discover the names of some of his old accomplices: but this he refused to do, because they had left their practices, and lived honest lives.

A few moments before they were launched into eternity, Butler declared that the circumstances of cruelty with which their crimes had been attended gave him more pain than the thoughts of death: and Duce acknowledged the enormity of his offences, and begged the forgiveness of all whom he had injured.

They were hanged at Tyburn, on the 14th of August, 1723.

A few short reflections naturally occur on the fate of these men. Butler, having been disobedient when a boy, was sent to sea in order to reclaim him. This is a common practice; but we cannot see how it is calculated to answer the designed end: what doctrines of morality or religion can a boy be expected to learn amidst the curses and execrations of sailors? But we believe one great reason why young offenders are sent to sea is, that they may be out of the way of disgracing their parents and relations by their presence, and of pursuing their bad practices on shore.

The cruelties these malefactors perpetrated, will hand down their names with infamy to posterity; and ought to impress on the minds of young people the horrid crime of robbery, which may naturally lead to the greater crime of murder.

der. By truth in all our words, and justice and mercy in our actions, we shall most effectually secure our happiness in this world; and by the aid of religion, and the mercy of God, may become successful candidates for eternal bliss in that which is to come!

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The life and Transactions of HUMPHREY ANGIER, who was hanged for Robbery.

**T**HIS offender was a native of Ireland, and born near Dublin; but his parents removing to Corke, put him apprentice to a cooper in that city. He had not been long in this station before his master desired to get rid of him, on account of his untoward disposition. Being discharged from his service, he lived the life of a vagabond for two years, and his father apprehending that he would come to a fatal end, brought him to England in the eighteenth year of his age.

Still, however, he continued his dissipated course of life, till having got considerably in debt, he enlisted for a soldier, to avoid being lodged in prison. As this happened in the year 1715, he was sent to Scotland to oppose the rebels; but robbing a farmer in that country, he was punished by receiving 500 lashes, in consequence of the sentence of a court martial.

The rebellion being ended, Angier came to London, and obtained his discharge. Here he became acquainted with William Duce, mentioned in the preceding article, and married a sister of Duce at an alehouse in the verge of the Fleet.

After

After this he enlisted for a soldier, and the regiment being ordered to Vigo, he took his wife with him; and when the greater part of the Spaniards had abandoned the place, Angier obtained a considerable sum by plunder. On his return to England he became acquainted with Butler's associates, and was concerned with them in several of their lawless depredations, but refused to have any share in acts of barbarity.

Angier now kept a house of ill-fame, which was resorted to by the other thieves; and one night after they had been out on one of their exploits, one Meads, (whose name we have before recorded,) told the following horrid tale: " We  
 " have been out; and the best fun of all was an  
 " engagement with a smock-faced shoemaker,  
 " whom we met on the Kentish-road. We asked  
 " him how far he was going, and he said he  
 " was just married, and going home to see his  
 " relations. After a little more discourse, we  
 " persuaded him to turn a little out of the road  
 " to look for a bird's-nest; but as soon as we  
 " had got him a little out of the road, we bound  
 " and gagged him, after which we robbed him,  
 " and were going away; but I being in a merry  
 " humour, and wanting to have a little diversion,  
 " turned about with my pistol, and shot him  
 " through the head." Bad as Angier was in other respects, he was shocked at this story, told his companions that there was no courage in cruelty, and from that time refused to drink with any of them.

After this Angier kept a house of ill-fame near Charing-Cross, letting lodgings to thieves, and receiving stolen goods. While in this way of life he went to see an execution at Tyburn, and did not return till four o'clock the next morning:  
 and



and in his absence an incident arose which was attended with troublesome consequences. A Dutch woman meeting with a gentleman in the street, conducted him to Angier's house, where he drank so freely that he fell asleep, when the woman robbed him of his watch and money, and made her escape. The gentleman awaking when Angier returned, charged him with the robbery, in consequence of which he was committed to prison, but soon afterwards discharged, the grand jury not finding the bill against him.

Not long after he got free of this trouble, his wife was indicted for robbing a gentleman of his watch and a guinea, but had the good fortune to be acquitted in defect of evidence.

The following accident happened about the same time: A woman named Turner had drank so much at Angier's house that he conducted her up to bed; but while he was in the room with her his wife entered like a fury, and demanding how Turner could presume to keep company with her husband, attacked and beat the woman. William Duce being in the house, went up to interfere; but the disturbance was by this time so great, that it was necessary to send for a constable.

The officer no sooner arrived, than Mrs. Turner charged Angier and his wife with robbing her; on which they were taken into custody and committed: but when they were brought to trial, they were acquitted, as there was no proof of any robbery, to the satisfaction of the jury.

Dyer, who was evidence against Duce and Butler, as mentioned in the preceding narrative, lived at this time with Angier as a waiter; and the master and man used occasionally to commit footpad robberies together; for which they were  
several

several times apprehended, and tried at the Old Bailey; but acquitted, because the prosecutors could not swear to their persons.

Angier's character now grew so notorious, that no person of common decency would be seen in his house; and the expences attending his repeated prosecutions were so great, that from these united causes he was compelled to decline business.

After this, however, he kept a gin-shop in Short's-Gardens, Drury-lane; and this house was frequented by company of the same kind as those he had formerly entertained, and among the rest parson Lindsey, who has been heretofore mentioned in this work. Lindsey having prevailed on a gentleman to go to this house, made him drunk, and then robbed him of several valuable articles; but procuring himself to be admitted an evidence, charged Angier and his wife with the robbery: but they had again the good fortune to escape, because the character of Lindsey was by this time so infamous, that the court and jury paid no regard to any thing that he said.

Not long after this, Mrs. Angier was transported for picking a gentleman's pocket, and her husband was convicted on two capital indictments; the one for robbing Mr. Lewin, the city marsh, near Hornsey, of ten guineas and some silver, and the other for robbing a waggoner near Knightsbridge. On both these trials, Dyer, who was concerned in the robberies, was admitted an evidence against Angier.

After conviction, Angier was visited by numbers of persons, whose pockets had been picked of valuable articles, in the hope of getting some intelligence of the property they had lost; but he

he told them he was never guilty of such mean actions as picking of pockets; and he said that none of his associates ever followed this practice; but one Hugh Kelly, who was transported for robbing a woman of a shroud, which she was carrying home, to cover her deceased husband.

Angier's father died of a broken heart soon after he heard of his commitment. While under sentence of death, he behaved with great penitence: confessed his crimes: said he had never been happy in the commission of them; and expressed a willingness to die, as what he hoped might be a compensation for his sins.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 9th of September, 1723, and just before he was turned off, advised young people to be obedient to their parents, as a failure in that important duty was the first step to his destruction.

Angier had a longer course of wickedness than falls to the lot of most offenders; but he was at length cut off, and fell a sacrifice to the rigour of the laws. We find he confessed he had never been happy; nor indeed can any criminal ever expect to be so: those who fail in their duty, entail wretchedness on themselves. The only way to be happy, is to be virtuous: while guilt inevitably leads to misery and shame. No person, then, in his senses, can hesitate which path to chuse. "The wise (says Solomon) shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotion of fools."

"To be good, is to be happy: Angels

"Are happier than men, because they're better."

ACCOUNT of RICHARD PARVIN, EDWARD ELLIOT, ROBERT KINGSHELL, HENRY MARSHALL, EDWARD PINK, JOHN PINK, and JAMES ANSELL, commonly called the *Waltham Blacks*, who were hanged for Murder.

THE actions of these offenders became so much the object of public notice, that it was deemed proper to frame a particular act of parliament in order to bring them to justice. Having blacked their faces they went in the day-time to the parks of the nobility and gentry, whence they repeatedly stole deer, and at length murdered the bishop of Winchester's keeper on Waltham-Chace; and from the name of the place, and their blacking their faces, they obtained the name of the *Waltham Blacks*.

The following is the substance of the act of parliament on which they were convicted: "Any  
 " person appearing in any forest, chace, park,  
 " &c. or in any high road, open heath, com-  
 " mon, or down, with offensive weapons, and  
 " having his face blacked, or otherwise disguised,  
 " or unlawfully and wilfully hunting, wounding,  
 " killing, or stealing any red or fallow deer, or  
 " unlawfully robbing any warren, &c. or steal-  
 " ing any fish out of any river or pond, or (whe-  
 " ther armed and disguised or not) breaking  
 " down the head or mound of any fish-pond,  
 " whereby the fish may be lost or destroyed; or  
 " unlawfully, and maliciously killing, maiming,  
 " or wounding any cattle, or cutting down, or  
 " otherwise destroying any trees planted in any  
 " avenue, or growing in any garden, orchard,  
 " or plantation, for ornament, shelter, or profit;  
 " or setting fire to any house, barn, or outhouse,  
 " hovel,

“ hovel, cock, mow, or stack of corn, straw,  
“ hay, or wood; or maliciously shooting at any  
“ person, in any dwelling-house or other place;  
“ or knowingly sending any letter without any  
“ name, or signed with a fictitious name, demand-  
“ ing money, venison, or other valuable thing,  
“ or forcibly rescuing any person being in cus-  
“ tody for any of the offences before-mentioned,  
“ or procuring any person by gift, or promise of  
“ money, or other reward, to join in any such  
“ unlawful act, or concealing or succouring such  
“ offenders, when by order of council, &c. re-  
“ quired to surrender—shall suffer death.”

The offence of deer-stealing was formerly only a misdemeanor at common law; but the act of parliament above-mentioned has been rendered perpetual by a subsequent statute: it therefore behoves people to be cautious that they do not endanger their lives, while they think they are committing what they may deem an inferior offence. We will now give such particulars as we have been able to obtain respecting the malefactors in question.

RICHARD PARVIN was heretofore the master of a public-house in Portsmouth, which he had kept with reputation for a considerable time, till he was imprudent enough to engage with the gang of ruffians who practised the robbing noblemen's and gentlemen's parks through the country. The reader is already apprised that it was the custom of these fellows to go disguised. Now a servant-maid of Parvin's having left his house during his absence, had repaired to an alehouse in the country; and Parvin calling there on his return from one of his dishonest expeditions, the girl discovered him; in consequence of which he was

committed to Winchester Gaol, by the mayor of Portsmouth, till his removal to London for trial.

EDWARD ELLIOT was an apprentice to a taylor at Guildford, and was very young when he engaged with the gang, whose orders he implicitly obeyed, till the following circumstance occasioned his leaving them. Having met with two countrymen who refused to enter into the society, they dug holes in the ground, and placed the unhappy men in them, up to their chins, and had they not been relieved by persons who accidentally saw them, they must have perished. Shocked by this deed, Elliot left them, and for some time served a lady as a footman; but on the day the keeper was murdered, he casually met them in the fields, and, on their promise that no harm should attend him, he unhappily consented to bear them company.

Having provided themselves with pistols, and blacked their faces with gunpowder, they proceeded to their lawless depredations; and while the rest of the gang were killing of deer, Elliot went in search of a fawn; but while he was looking for it, the keeper and his assistants came up, and took him into custody. His associates were near enough to see what happened; and immediately coming to his assistance, a violent affray ensued, in which the keeper was shot by Henry Marshall, so that he died on the spot, and Elliot made his escape; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Guildford.

ROBERT KINGSHILL, who was a native of Farnham in Surry, was placed by his parents with a shoemaker; but being too idle to follow his profession, he was guilty of many acts of irregularity,  
before

before he associated himself with the Waltham Blacks, with whom he afterwards suffered. While he was in bed on the night preceding the fatal murder, one of the gang awaked him, by knocking at his window, on which he arose, and went with him to join the rest of the deer-stealers.

HENRY MARSHAL was a man distinguished for his strength and agility: we have no account of the place of his birth, or the manner of his education; but it is reasonable to think that the latter was of the inferior kind, since he appears to have been chiefly distinguished by his skill in the vulgar science of bruising. He was once the occasion of apprehending a highwayman, who had robbed a coach, by giving him a single blow which broke his arm. He seems to have been one of the most daring of the Waltham Blacks, and was the man who shot the chace-keeper, as above-mentioned.

EDWARD PINK and JOHN PINK were brothers, who spent the former part of their lives as carters, at Portsmouth; and had maintained the character of honest men till they became weak enough to join the desperate gang of deer-stealers

It now remains to speak only of JAMES ANSEL, who likewise lived at Portsmouth. We are not informed in what way he had originally supported himself; but for some years before he joined the desperate gang above-mentioned he was a highwayman; and had been concerned with the Waltham Blacks about two years before the commission of the murder which cost them their lives.

By a vigilant exertion of the civil power, all the above-mentioned offenders, were taken into custody, and it being thought prudent to bring them to trial in London, they were removed thither

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ther under a strong guard, and lodged in Newgate.

On the 13th of November, 1723, they were brought to their trial in the court of King's Bench, and being convicted on the clearest evidence, were found guilty and sentenced to die; and it was immediately ordered that they should suffer on the fourth of the next month. One circumstance was very remarkable on this occasion:—the judge had no sooner pronounced the sentence, than Henry Marshall, the man who had shot the keeper, was immediately deprived of the use of his tongue: nor did he recover his speech till the day before his death.

After passing the solemn sentence, the convicts behaved in a manner equally devout and resigned, were regular in their devotions, and prepared themselves for eternity with every mark of unfeigned contrition. They received the sacrament before they left Newgate, acknowledged the justice of the sentence against them, and said they had been guilty of many crimes besides that for which they were to suffer.

At the place of execution they were so dejected as to be unable to address the populace; but they again confessed their sins, and recommended their souls to God, beseeching his mercy; through the merits of Christ, with the utmost fervency of devotion.

These malefactors were hanged at Tyburn, on the 4th of December, 1723,

A very short, though important lesson, may be learnt from the fate of these unhappy men. Idleness must have been the great source of their lawless depredations, which at length ended in murder. No man, however successful in the  
pro-



profession, can expect to get as much profit by deer-steeling, as by following his lawful business. The truth is, that, in almost every instance, it costs a man more pains to be a rogue than to be honest. Exclusive of the duties of religion, young persons cannot learn a more important maxim than that in the scripture; “the hand of the diligent maketh rich.”

In this place it may not be improper to make a single remark on the game laws. These are supposed to be, possibly not without reason, severe: it is contended that those animals which are wild by nature are equally the property of every man. Perhaps this is the truth: but persons in the lower ranks of life should remember, that when laws are once enacted, **THEY MUST BE OBEYED.** Safety lies in acquiescence with, not in opposition to, legal institutions.

Particulars respecting JOHN STANLEY, who was hanged for murder.

**MR. STANLEY** was the son of an officer in the army, and born in the year 1690, at Duce-Hall in Essex, a seat that belonged to Mr. Palmer, who was his uncle by the mother's side. Young Stanley being the favourite of his father, the latter began to teach him the art of fencing when he was no more than five years of age; and other officers likewise practising the same art with him, he became a kind of master of the sword when he was but a mere boy; for, to stimulate his courage, it was common for those who fenced with him to give him wine, or other strong liquors.

In consequence of this treatment the boy grew daring and insolent beyond expression, and at length behaved with so uncommon a degree of audacity that his father deemed him a singular character of bravery.

While he was very young Mr. Stanley being ordered to join his regiment in Spain, took his son with him; and in that country he was a spectator of several engagements, but his principal delight was in trampling on the bodies of the deceased, after the battles were ended.

From Spain the elder Stanley was ordered to Ireland, whither he took his son, and there procured for him an ensign's commission: but the young gentleman, habituating himself to extravagant company, spent much more money than the produce of his commission, which he soon sold, and then returned to England.

The father was greatly mortified at this proceeding, and advised him to make application to general Stanhope, who had been a warm friend to the family: but this advise was lost on the young fellow, who abandoned himself to the most dissolute course of life; borrowed money of all his acquaintance, which he soon squandered at the gaming tables, and procured farther supplies from women with whom he made illicit connections.

He was so vain of his acquaintance with the ladies, that he boasted of their favours as an argument in proof of his own accomplishments; though what he might obtain from the weakness of one woman, he commonly squandered on others, of more abandoned character.

One mode which he took to supply his extravagance, was to introduce himself into the company of young gentlemen who were but little acquainted

quainted with the vices of the age, whom he assisted in wasting their fortunes in every species of scandalous dissipation.

At length, after a scene of riot in London, he went with one of his associates to Flanders, and thence to Paris; and Stanley boasted not a little of the favours he received among the French ladies, and of the improvements he had made in the science of fencing.

On his return to England the opinion he conceived of his skill in the use of the sword made him insufferably vain and presuming. He would frequently intrude himself into company at a tavern, and saying he was come to make himself welcome, would sit down at the table without farther ceremony. The company would sometimes bear with his insolence for the sake of peace; but when this was the case, it was a chance if he did not pretend to have received some affront, and, drawing his sword, walk off while the company was in confusion. It was not always, however, that matters thus ended; for sometimes a gentleman of spirit would take the liberty of kicking our hero out of the house.

It will now be proper to mention something of his connection with Mrs. Maycock, the murder of whom cost him his life. As he was returning from a gaming-house which he frequented in Covent-Garden, he met a Mr. Bryan of Newgate-street, and his sister, Mrs. Maycock, the wife of a mercer on Ludgate-Hill. Stanley rudely ran against the man, and embraced the woman; on which a quarrel arose; but this subsiding, Stanley insisted on seeing the parties home: this he did, and spent the evening with them; and from

this circumstance a fatal connection arose, as will appear in the sequel.

Stanley having made an acquaintance with the family, soon afterwards met Mrs. Maycock at the house of a relation in Red-Lion-Street, Holborn. In a short time Mr. Maycock removing into Southwark, the visits of our captain were admitted on a footing of intimacy.

The husband dying soon after this connection, Stanley became more at liberty to pay his addresses to the widow; and it appears that some considerable intimacy subsisted between them, from the following letter, which is not more a proof of the absurd vanity of the man that could write it, than of the woman that could keep him company after receiving it. The egregious coxcomb, and supercilious flatterer, is visible in every line.

“ I am to-morrow to be at the Opera; O that  
 “ I could add, with her I love. The Opera,  
 “ where beauties less beauteous than thou, sit  
 “ panting, admired, and taste the sweet barba-  
 “ rian sounds. On Friday I shall be at the mas-  
 “ querade at Somersset House, where modest plea-  
 “ sure hides itself, before it will be touched: but  
 “ though it is uncertain in the shape, ’tis real in  
 “ the sense; for masks scorn to steal, and not  
 “ repay: therefore, as they conceal the face,  
 “ they oft make the body the better known. At  
 “ this end of the town, many faded beauties bid  
 “ the oleos and the brush kiss their cheeks and  
 “ lips, till their charms only glimmer with a  
 “ borrowed grace; so that a city beauty, rich in  
 “ her native spring of simplicity and loveliness,  
 “ will doubly shine with us; shine like the inno-  
 “ cent

“cent morning blush of light, that glitters un-  
“tainted on the gardens.”

This exquisite piece of nonsense flattered the vanity of the lady, so that he was admitted to repeat his visits at his own convenience. At this time a young fellow who had served his apprenticeship with the late Mr. Maycock, and who was possessed of a decent fortune to begin the world, paid his addresses to the young widow; but she preferred a licentious life with Stanley, to a more virtuous connection.

Soon after this she quitted her house in Southwark, and the lovers spent their time at balls, plays, and assemblies, till her money was dissipated, when he did not scruple to insinuate that she had been too liberal of her favours to other persons. In the mean time she bore him three children, one of whom was living at the time of the father's execution.

Stanley continuing his dissolute course of life, his parents became very uneasy, in fear of the fatal consequences that might ensue; and his father, who saw too late the wrong bias he had given to his education, procured him the commission of a lieutenant, to go to Cape-Coast Castle, in the service of the African company.

The young fellow seemed so pleased with this appointment, that his friends conceived great hopes that he would reform. Preparations being made for his voyage, and the company having advanced a considerable sum, he went to Portsmouth, in order to embark: but he had been only a few days in that town, when he was followed by Mrs. Maycock, with her infant child. She reproached him with baseness, in first debauching, and then leaving her to starve: and employing all the arts she was mistress of to divert him from

his resolution, he gave her half the money which belonged to the company, and followed her to London with the rest.

Shocked with the news of this dishonourable action the father took to his bed, and died of grief. Young Stanley appeared greatly grieved at this event, and to divert his chagrin, he went to Flanders, where he staid a considerable time, when he returned to England, and lived in as abandoned a manner as before.

Soon after his return, having drank freely with two tradesmen, they all walked together towards Hampstead; and meeting a Mr. Dawson, with five other gentlemen, a quarrel ensued. One of the gentlemen fired a pistol, the ball from which grazed Stanley's skin. Enraged hereby, the latter drew his sword, and making a pass at him the sword ran into the body of Mr. Dawson, through the lower part of his belly, and to his backbone. The wounded man was conveyed to a neighbouring house, where he lay six weeks before he was perfectly recovered.

However, as Dawson happened to know Stanley, he took out a writ against him for damages, to recover the expence of the cure; but the writ was never executed, as Stanley was so celebrated for his skill in the use of his sword, and his daring disposition, that the bailiffs were afraid to arrest him.

Not long after this, quarrelling with captain Chickley, at a cyder-cellar in Covent-Garden, Stanley challenged the captain to fight in a dark room. They shut themselves in; but a constable being sent for, broke open the door, and probably saved Stanley's life; for Chickley had then ran his sword through his body, while he himself had received only two slight wounds.

It appears that Stanley still paid occasional visits to Mrs. Maycock; and he had the insolence to pretend anger at her receiving the visits of other persons, though he was not able to support her; for he had the vanity to think that a woman whom he had debauched ought for ever to bear true allegiance to him, as a wife to her husband.

Mrs. Maycock having been to visit a gentleman, was returning one night through Chancery-Lane, in company with another woman, and Mr. Hammond of the Old Bailey. Stanley, in company with another man, met the parties, and he and his companion insisted on going with the women. Hammond hereupon said the ladies belonged to him; but Mrs. Maycock now recognizing Stanley, said, "What, captain, is it you?" He asked her where she was going: she said to Mr. Hammond's in the Old Bailey. He replied that he was glad to meet her, and would go with her.

As they walked down Fleet-street, Stanley desired his companions to go back, and wait for him at an appointed place; and as the company was going forward, Stanley struck a man who happened to be in his way, and kicked a woman on the same account.

Being arrived at Hammond's house, the company desired Stanley to go home; but this he refused, and Mrs. Maycock going into the kitchen, he pushed in after her, and some words having passed between them, he stabbed her so that she died in about an hour and a half.

Other company going into the kitchen saw Stanley flourishing his sword, while the deceased was fainting with loss of blood, and crying out, "I am stabbed! I am murdered!" Stanley's sword being taken from him, he threw himself  
down

down by Mrs. Maycock, and said, "My dear Hannah, will you not speak to me?"

The offender being taken into custody, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, where some witnesses endeavoured to prove that he was a lunatic; but the jury considering his extravagant conduct as the effect of his vices only, and the evidence against him being positive, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death.

Before his conviction he had behaved in a very inconsiderate manner, nor was his conduct much altered afterwards; only that when he heard the name of Mrs. Maycock mentioned, he was seized with violent tremblings, and drops of cold sweat fell from his face.

He was carried to the place of execution, in a mourning coach; but on being put into the cart under the gallows, he turned pale, and was so weak that he could not stand without support. He made no speech to the people, but only said that as a hearse was provided to take away his body, he hoped no one would prevent its receiving Christian burial. It was observed that he wept bitterly after the cap was drawn over his eyes.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 23d of December, 1723, at the age of twenty-five years.

It is impossible to dismiss this subject without reflecting on the absurd conduct of Stanley's father, who by his eagerness to teach him, while an infant; the use of the sword, gave him that degree of false bravery, and mad courage, that tempted him to the unlawful use of it on every occasion; and at length combining with his vices, occasioned the perpetration of the horrid crime of murder: a murder of the most aggravated nature; that of a woman who had fallen a  
sacri-



sacrifice to his art of seduction, aided, no doubt, by her own uncontrolable vanity.

The unhappy fate of Mrs. Maycock should teach married women the inestimable value of chastity. The woman who listens to the art of a seducer is in the high-road to destruction; and as surely as she suffers her person to be violated, she entails misery on herself and family, and lays the ground-work of a long series of repentance: and happy may she think herself if, by the grace of God, that repentance prove not ineffectual.

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Case of STEPHEN GARDENER, who was hanged  
for Burglary.

**T**HIS malefactor was born in Moorfields, of poor parents, who put him apprentice to a weaver; but his behaviour soon became so bad, that his master was obliged to correct him severely; on which he ran away, and associated with blackguard boys in the streets, and then was driven home through mere hunger.

His friends now determined to send him to sea, and put him on board a corn-vessel, the master of which traded to France and Holland. Being an idle and useless hand on board, he was treated so roughly by his shipmates that he grew heartily tired of a sea-faring life; and on his return from the first voyage, he promised the utmost obedience, if his friends would permit him to remain at home.

This was readily complied with, in the hope of his reformation, and he was now put to a waterman; but being impatient of restraint, he soon quitted his service, and engaged with dissolute fel-

fellows in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, with whom he played at cards, dice, &c. till he was stripped of what little money he had, and then commenced pick-pocket.

His first attempt of this kind was at Guildhall, during the drawing of the lottery, when he took a wig out of a man's pocket; but though he was detected in the offence, the humanity of the surrounding multitude permitted his escape. This circumstance encouraged him to continue his practice, and about a month afterwards he was detected in picking another pocket, and notwithstanding his protestations of innocence, underwent the discipline of the horse-pond.

He was now determined to give over a business which was necessarily attended with so much hazard, and afforded so little prospect of advantage; but soon afterwards he became acquainted with two notorious house-breakers, named Garraway and Sly, who offered to take him as partner; but he rejected their proposals, till one night, when he had lost all his money and most of his cloaths, at cards; then he went to his new acquaintance, and agreed to be concerned in their illicit practices.

Garraway proposed, that they should rob his own brother, which being immediately agreed to, they broke open his house, and stole most of his and his wife's wearing apparel, which they sold, and spent the money in extravagance. They in the next place robbed Garraway's uncle of a considerable quantity of plate, which they sold to a woman named Gill, who disposed of the plate, and never accounted to them for the produce. Gardener, provoked at being thus defrauded of his share of the ill-got booty, informed Jonathan Wild of the robbery, who got him admitted an  
evi-





*Dodd delin.*

*Pollard sculp.*

*The BELL-MAN at St Sepulchre's, speaking the admonitory Words to the Malefactor's going to Execution!*

evidence against the other men, who were convicted; but respited on condition of being transported.

Gardener having now been some time acquainted with a woman, who kept a public-house in Fleet-Lane, and who was possessed of some money, he proposed to marry her, with a view of obtaining her property; and the woman listening to his offer, they were married by one of the Fleet-parsons.

The money Gardener obtained with his spouse was soon spent in extravagance; and not long afterwards they were apprehended on suspicion of felony, and conducted to St. Sepulchre's watch-house: however, the charge against them not being validated, it was necessary to dismiss them; but before they were set at liberty, the constable said to Gardener, "Beware how you come here again; or this bell-man will certainly say his verses over you:" for the bell-man happened to be at that time in the watch-house.

It has been a very antient practice, on the night preceding the execution of condemned criminals, for the bell-man of the parish of St. Sepulchre to go under Newgate, and ringing his bell, to repeat the following verses as a piece of friendly advice, to the unhappy wretches under sentence of death.

All you that in the condemn'd hold do lie,  
 Prepare you, for to morrow you shall die.  
 Watch all, and pray, the hour is drawing near,  
 That you before th' Almighty must appear.  
 Examine well yourselves, in time repent,  
 That you may not t' eternal flames be sent:

And when St. Sepulchre's bell to morrow tolls,  
 The Lord above have mercy on your souls!  
 Past twelve o'clock!

The following extract from Stowe's Survey of London, page 195, of the quarto edition, printed in 1618, will prove that the above verses ought to be repeated by a clergyman, instead of the bell-man.

“ Robert Doue, Citizen and Merchant Taylor,  
 “ of London, — gaue to the parish church of  
 “ St. Sepulchres, the summe of 50l. That after  
 “ the seueral sessions of London, when the pri-  
 “ soners remaine in the goale, as condemned  
 “ men to death, expecting execution on the mor-  
 “ row following: the clarke, (that is, the parson)  
 “ of the church shoold come in the night-time,  
 “ and likewise early in the morning, to the win-  
 “ drow of the prison where they lye, and there  
 “ ringing certain toles with a hand-bell, appoint-  
 “ ed for the purpose, he doth afterward (in most  
 “ Christian manner) put them in mind of their  
 “ present condition, and ensuing execution, de-  
 “ siring them to be prepared therefore as they  
 “ ought to be. When they are in the cart, and  
 “ brought before the wall of the church, there he  
 “ standeth ready with the same bel, and after cer-  
 “ tain toles rehearseth an appointed praier, de-  
 “ siring all the people there present to pray for  
 “ them. The beadle also of Merchant-Taylors  
 “ Hall hath an honest stipend allowed to see that  
 “ this is duely done.”

Gardener was greatly affected when the con-  
 stable told him that the bell-man would say his  
 verses

verses over him : but the impresson it made on his mind soon wore off, and he quickly returned to his vicious practices.

In a short time after this adventure, Gardener fell into company with one Rice Jones, and they agreed to go together on the *passing lay*, which is an artifice frequently practised in modern times ; and though the sharpers are often taken into custody, and their tricks exposed in the news-papers yet there are repeatedly found people weak enough to submit to the imposition.

The following is a description of this trick from a book formerly printed. “ The rogues having  
 “ concerted their plan, one of them takes a  
 “ countryman into a public-house, under pre-  
 “ sence of any business they can think of ; then  
 “ the other comes in as a stranger, and in a little  
 “ time finds a pack of cards, which his com-  
 “ panion had designedly laid on some shelf in the  
 “ room : on which the two sharpers begin to  
 “ play. At length one of them offers a wager  
 “ on the game, and puts down his money. The  
 “ other shows his cards to the countryman, to  
 “ convince him that he must certainly win, and  
 “ offers to let him go halves in the wager ; but  
 “ soon after the countryman has laid down his  
 “ money, the sharpers manage the matter so as  
 “ to *pass off* with it.

This was evidently the mode of tricking formerly ; but it seems to have been improved on of late years ; for the sharpers generally game with the countryman till he has lost all his money ; and then he has only to execrate his own folly for suffering himself to be duped by a couple of rascals.

In this practice our adventurers were very successful at different places, particularly at Bristol ;

but in this last place Jones bilked Gardener in such a manner as to prove that there is no truth in the observation of "honour among thieves;" for Jones having defrauded a country gentleman of a gold watch and chain, a suit of laced cloaths, and about a hundred guineas, gave no share of the booty to Gardener.

This induced the latter to think of revenge; but he disguised his sentiments, and they went together to Bath, where they remained some time, and then proceeded on their journey; but in the morning on which they set out, Gardener stole an iron pestle from the inn where they lay, and concealed it in his boot, with an intention of murdering his companion when they should come into an unfrequented place.

On their journey Gardener generally kept behind Jones, and twice took out the pestle, with an intention to perpetrate the murder: but his resolution failing him, he at length dropped it in the road, unperceived by his companion.

In a few days afterwards these companions in iniquity parted; and on this occasion Jones said, "Hark ye, Gardener, whither are you going?" "To London," (said he.) "Why then (replied Jones) you are going to be hanged."

We find that this was not the first intimation that Gardener received of the fatal consequence that must attend his illicit practices: but it appeared to have no good effect on him; for soon after he quitted Jones, he broke open a house between Abergavenny and Monmouth; but finding no money, he took only a gown, with which he rode off.

Soon after his arrival in London he robbed a house in Addle-hill; but was not apprehended for it: but in a short time he broke open the house



of Mrs. Roberts, and carried off linen to the amount of twenty-five pounds.

In this robbery he was assisted by John Martin, and both the offenders being soon afterwards taken into custody, were brought to trial, capitally convicted; and received sentence of death; but Martin was afterwards reprieved, on condition of transportation for fourteen years.

After sentence of death Gardener became as sincere a penitent as he had been a notorious offender. He resigned himself to his fate with the utmost submission; and before he quitted Newgate on the day of execution he dressed himself in a shroud, in which he was executed, refusing to wear any other cloaths, though the weather was intensely cold.

At the fatal tree he saw some of his old companions, whom he desired to take warning by his calamitous fate; to avoid bad company, and embrace a life of sobriety, as the most certain road to happiness in this world and the next.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 3d of February, 1724.

The fate of this malefactor shews us the ill consequence of an early attachment to gaming. It unfits both the mind and body for all honest employment; and though it does not in all instances lead to the gallows, it is one of the readiest preparatives to it than can be imagined. It is to be hoped that parents in general will be cautious to prevent the spirit of gaming in their children, since nothing more effectually allures to destruction; and the happiness of the next generation must depend much on the care we take of the present.

We wish the tricks so frequently and successfully played by gamblers, may teach people in general,

general, and country farmers in particular, to be guarded against their arts. People who have no bad design of their own are not apt to suspect others: but any person may be certain that when a stranger produces a pack of cards, and tempts him to game, no good can be intended. The life of a gambler is not only wretched in itself, but tends to make unhappy all those with whom he is connected.

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Particulars respecting FRANCIS BRIGHTWELL, and BENJAMIN BRIGHTWELL, who were tried for Highway-Robbery, and acquitted.

AS it is one professed design of this publication to give trials in extraordinary cases, on which the parties accused have been acquitted; in compliance with this rule we insert the following, though it will be seen that the supposed offenders, so far from being thieves, were an ornament to human nature.

In the month of August, 1724, Francis Brightwell, and Benjamin Brightwell, were indicted for assaulting John Pargiter on the highway, and robbing him of three shillings.

It was sworn by M. Pargiter, that he had been robbed on the road to Hampstead, by two fellows\* dressed in soldiers cloaths; and that being on the same road a few days afterwards, he was shewing some farmers the spot where he had been robbed, at the very time when the Brightwell's came in sight;

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\* In the course of the following pages it will appear that this robbery was committed by Sheppard and Blueskin.

fight; on which he declared that they were the persons who had robbed him; whereupon they were immediately taken into custody; which was a work of no great difficulty, as the surprise on being charged with a crime of which they were wholly innocent deprived them of all idea of resistance.

These brothers were soldiers in the grenadier guards, and when they were carried before a magistrate, though Mr. Pargiter swore positively to their persons, Francis alledged that he was on guard at the time of the robbery, and Benjamin said that he was at home.

On the trial, the serjeant produced the regimental book, from which it was evident that, when the robbery was committed, Francis was on guard at Kensington: and several persons of reputation proved that Benjamin was at his lodgings in Clare-Market; and likewise gave him an excellent character.

With regard to Francis, Mr. Hughs, a clergyman, delivered his testimony in the following words, “ I have known Francis Brightwell near twenty years. He was always reputed to be a person of the fairest character, for sobriety, piety, and justice. He was, to an extraordinary degree, accomplished with Latin and Greek literature, and had good skill in Roman antiquities; and in a word, he carried so great a share of exquisite learning under his grenadier’s cap, that I believe there is not such another grenadier in the universe.”

This testimony of Mr. Hughs was confirmed by a number of military officers; and the court and jury considering that Mr. Pargiter must have been mistaken in the parties who robbed him, the brothers were honourably acquitted.

On the 22d of the month in which he was tried, Francis Brightwell died at his lodgings at Paddington, as supposed of the goal distemper. He was attended, during his short illness, by the late eminent Sir Hans Sloan; but the malignity of his disorder defied the power of medicine.

The following curious letter, respecting Francis Brightwell, is extracted from the news-paper, called the British Journal, of the 5th of September, 1724.

SIR,  
Finding that all our public papers, from the 4th of August to this day have omitted to make honourable mention of some very remarkable circumstances relating to a very private person, I desire his memory may be deposited in your journal. The person I mean, is Francis Brightwell the grenadier, who was tried and acquitted at the Old-Bailey, for a robbery sworn against him; and who, since his coming out of prison, died, as 'tis said, of the goal distemper.

When evidence was given against him in court, Brightwell, by several witnesses, proved that he was upon the king's guard, at Kensington, at the time that the robbery (if a robbery) was committed. Hereupon the court went into an enquiry concerning the reputation and character of the prisoner. Some officers who had known him long in the service, gave testimony to his sobriety and diligence in the duty of a soldier. As to his honesty, a lady (present in court) declared, she had entrusted him with a thousand pounds at a time; and, a gentleman, that he had committed his house and goods, to the value of 6000*l.* to his keeping: in both which trusts Brightwell had ac-  
quit-

quitted himself to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.

These ample testimonies, concurring to the honour of a man in so low a condition of life, gave (you may imagine) no small surprize to all that were present; when a clergyman added, to their astonishment, by declaring, that he had long known the prisoner to be not only a person of sobriety but likewise of very excellent learning and particularly in Latin and Greek: for, that Brightwell had often consulted him, upon difficult passages in Virgil and Horace.

Thus much for what appeared at the trial of this grenadier. I shall only remark upon his learning, that I am amazed that scholarship is not very common among military men, considering their profession admits of more leisure hours than any other. Perhaps these gentlemen are afraid of knowledge, from a celebrated maxim delivered by John Dryden, *the learned are all cowards by profession*: and yet Alexander and Cæsar were scholars; and they did not seem to want courage.

But, to pursue what further particulars I have learned of this deceased grenadier. He was contented in his station, studious of leisure, and ambitious only of knowledge. He had offers of being promoted to the rank of corporal or serjeant; which he declined, that he might have as few avocations as possible from his studies. Neither did he ever covet money; and, I am apt to believe, had he been at the sacking of a town, he would not have thought of carrying off any other plunder, but a valuable book or two. Take the following instance of his disregard of gain. He had an excellent manner of cleaning and furbishing arms, for which he had his settled prices. An

officer, whose arms he had brightened, was so well pleased with his work, that he sent Brightwell (over and above the usual price) a guinea for a present. The philosopher took his price, and returned the guinea by the servant. Some time after, when the gentleman saw him, *why*, said he, *would you not accept the guinea I sent you : I am paid for my work*, replied the centinel, *and desire no more—Accept of a crown then, if your modesty makes you think a guinea too much*, said the officer.—*Excuse me, Sir*, answered the Veteran, *and do not think it vanity or affectation, when I refuse your kindness ; but, indeed, Sir, I don't want it : But I am thirsty and have no money about me ; so that if your honour will be pleased to give me three-pence to drink your health, I shall thankfully accept of it.*

This last particular of our grenadier runs so very parallel with a story in Sir William Temple's observations of the united Provinces, that I think it proper to transcribe it on this occasion. Vol. I. p. 50. “ Among the many and various  
 ‘ hospitals that are in every man's curiosity and  
 ‘ talk that travels Holland, I was affected with  
 ‘ none more than that of the aged seamen at En-  
 ‘ chusyden, which is contrived, finished, and  
 ‘ ordered, as if it were done with a kind inten-  
 ‘ tion of some well natured man, that those, who  
 ‘ had passed their whole lives in the hardships and  
 ‘ incommodities of the sea, should find a retreat,  
 ‘ stored with all the ease and conveniency that old  
 ‘ age is capable of feeling and enjoying. And  
 ‘ here I met with the only rich man that I ever  
 ‘ saw in my life : for one of these old seamen,  
 ‘ entertaining me with the plain stories of his fifty-  
 ‘ years voyages and adventures, while I was  
 ‘ viewing this hospital and the church adjoining,  
 ‘ gave him, at parting, a piece of their coin,  
 ‘ about





*Blake, alias Bluiskin attempting to cut the Throat of Jonathan Wild, on the leads before the old Sessions house.*



‘ about the value of a crown : he took it smiling,  
 ‘ and offered it me again ; but when I refused it,  
 ‘ he asked me what he should do with the money ?  
 ‘ I left him to overcome his modesty as he could ;  
 ‘ but a servant coming after me, saw him give it  
 ‘ to a little girl, that opened the church door, as  
 ‘ she past by him : which made me reflect on the  
 ‘ fantastick calculation of riches and poverty ;  
 ‘ that is current to the world, by which a man  
 ‘ that wants a million is a prince, he that wants  
 ‘ but a groat is a beggar, and this was *a poor man*  
 ‘ *that wanted nothing at all.*’

The case of these brothers affords an admirable lesson to prosecutors to be cautious how they swear to the identity of persons. It is better that the guilty should escape, than that the innocent should be punished.

It likewise affords us an instance of the mysterious Providence of God. Two innocent men are charged with a crime ; and the consequence of imprisonment, and possibly of grief, ends in the death of one of them. We may presume that he was too good for this wicked world ; and that the Almighty chose this method of calling him to a better !

The Life and Transactions of JOSEPH BLAKE, otherwise Blueskin, who was hanged for Burglary.

**T**HIS offender, who was a native of London, was sent to school by his parents for the space of six years ; but he made little progress in learning, having a very early propensity to acts of dishonesty. While at school he made

an acquaintance with William Blewit, who afterwards entered into Jonathan Wild's gang, and became one of the most notorious villains of the age.

No sooner had Blake left school than he commenced pickpocket, and had been in all the prisons for felons before he was fifteen years of age. From this practice he turned street-robber, and joined with Oaky, Levee, and many other villains, who acted under the directions of Jonathan Wild. For some of the robberies they committed they were taken into custody, and Blake was admitted an evidence against his companions, who were convicted.

In consequence of these convictions Blake claimed his liberty, and part of the reward allowed by government: but he was informed by the court that he had no right to either, because he was not a voluntary evidence; since, so far from having surrendered, he made an obstinate resistance, and was much wounded before he was taken; and therefore he must find security for his good behaviour, or be transported.

Not being able to give the requisite security, he was lodged in Wood-street Compter, where he remained a considerable time, during which Jonathan Wild allowed him three shillings and sixpence a week. At length he prevailed on two gardeners to be his bail; but the court at the Old Bailey hesitating to take their security, they went before Sir John Fryer, who took their recognizance for Blake's good behaviour for seven years. A gentleman who happened to be present at Sir John's, asked how long it might be before Blake would appear again at the Old Bailey; to which another gentleman answered, "three sessions;

“sions;” and he happened to be perfectly right in his conjecture.

Blake had no sooner obtained his liberty than he was concerned in several robberies with Jack Sheppard, and particularly that for which the two brothers, Brightwell, were tried. The footpad robberies and burglaries they committed were very numerous; but the fact for which Blake suffered was the robbery of Mr. Kneebone, as will appear by the following account.

At the Old Bailey sessions, in October, 1724, Joseph Blake otherwise Blueskin, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, value 36l. and other goods. The prosecutor having sworn that the bars of his cellar-window were cut, and that the cellar-door, which had been bolted and padlocked, was broke open, he acquainted Jonathan Wild with what had happened, who went to Blake’s lodgings, with two other persons; but Blake refusing to open the door, it was broke open by Quilt Arnold, one of Wild’s men.

On this Blake drew a penknife, and swore he would kill the first man that entered; in answer to which Arnold said, “Then I am the first man, and Mr. Wild is not far behind, and if you dont deliver your penknife immediately, I will chop your arm off.” Hereupon the prisoner dropped the knife; and Wild entering, he was taken into custody.

As the parties were conveying Blake to Newgate, they came by the house of the prosecutor, on which Wild said to the prisoner, “There’s the ken,” and the latter replied, “Say no more of that Mr. Wild, for I know I am a dead man; but what I fear is that I shall after-  
“wards

“wards be carried to Surgeon’s hall, and anatomized: to which Wild replied, “No, I’ll take care to prevent that, for I’ll give you a coffin.”

William Field, who was evidence on the trial, swore that the robbery was committed by Blake, Sheppard, and himself: and the jury brought in a verdict of guilty.

As soon as the verdict was given Blake addressed the court in the following terms: “On Wednesday morning last Jonathan Wild said to Simon Jacobs\*, I believe you will not bring 40l. this time: I wish Joe (meaning me) was in your case; but I’ll do my endeavour to bring you off as a single felon. And then turning to me, he said, ‘I believe you must die—I’ll send you a good book or two, and provide you a coffin, and you shall not be anatomized.’”

Wild was to have been an evidence against this malefactor; but going to visit him in the bail-dock, previous to his trial, Blake suddenly drew a clasped penknife, with which he cut Jonathan’s throat, which prevented his giving evidence; but as the knife was blunt, the wound, though dangerous, did not prove mortal; and we shall see that Jonathan was preserved for a different fate.

While under sentence of death, Blake did not shew a concern proportioned to his calamitous situation. When asked if he was advised to commit the violence on Wild, he said No, but that a sudden thought entered his mind, or he would have provided a knife, which would have cut off his head at once.

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\* Jacobs was then a prisoner, and afterwards transported.

On the nearer approach of death he appeared still less concerned, and it was thought that his mind was chiefly bent on meditating means of escaping; but seeing no prospect of getting away, he took to drinking, which he continued even to the day of his death; for he was observed to be intoxicated even while he was under the gallows.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of November, 1723.

This malefactor appears to have been a thief almost from his cradle: his habits of vice increased with his growing years, till at length he died, in the most ignominious manner, a victim to the violated laws of his country. Examples have generally more weight than precepts, from that of Blake, who became vicious at so early a period, notwithstanding the care his parents took to give him good education, young people should learn the duty of gratitude to those parents who are kind and thoughtful enough to lay the foundation of their future happiness by proper instructions in their youth.

The advantages of early piety likewise become conspicuous from the fate of those who neglect religion in the early part of life.

Happy the child whose younger years  
 Receive instructions well;  
 Who hates the sinner's path, and fears  
 The road that leads to hell.

When we devote our youth to God,  
 'Tis pleasing in his eyes;  
 A flow'r when offer'd in the bud,  
 Is no vain sacrifice,

'Tis

'Tis easier work, if we begin  
 To fear the Lord betimes ;  
 While finners, that grow old' in sin,  
 Are hardened in their crimes.

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Narrative of the Life, Trial, and Execution of  
 JOHN SHEPPARD, who was hanged for Bur-  
 glary.

**T**HE case of this malefactor having been more the subject of public conversation than that of almost any one who ever underwent the sentence of the law, and his adventures being in themselves very remarkable; we shall be the more particular in our account of him.

John Sheppard was born in Spital-fields in the year 1702. His father, who was a carpenter, bore the character of an honest man; yet he had another son named Thomas, who, as well as Jack turned out a thief.

The father dying while the boys were very young they were left to the care of the mother, who placed Jack at a school in Bishopsgate-street, where he remained two years, and was then put apprentice to a cane-chairmaker in Houndsditch. His master dying when he had been only a short time with him, he was placed with another person of the same trade: but here he was so ill-treated that he remained only a short time, when he was taken into the protection of Mr. Kneebone, a whoollen-draper in the strand, who had some knowledge of his father. At length Mr. Kneebone put him apprentice to a carpenter in Wych-street.

He



Jack Sheppard *in the Room Called the Castle, in  
Newgate.*



Faint text at the bottom of the page, possibly a page number or a small note, which is mostly illegible due to fading.



He behaved with decency in this place for about four years, when frequenting the Black Lion alehouse in Drury-Lane, he became acquainted with some abandoned women, among whom the principal was Elizabeth Lyon, otherwise called Edgworth Bess, from the town of Edgworth, where she was born.

While he continued to work as a carpenter he often committed robberies in the houses where he was employed, stealing tankards, spoons, and other articles, which he carried to Edgworth Bess; but not being suspected of having committed these robberies, he at length resolved to commence house-breaker.

Exclusive of Edgworth Bess he was acquainted with a woman named Maggot, who persuaded him to rob the house of Mr. Bain's, a piece-broker in White Horse Yard; and Jack having brought away a piece of fustian from thence, (which he deposited in his trunk) went afterwards at midnight, and taking the bars out of the cellar-window, entered, and stole goods and money to the amount of twenty-two pounds which he carried to Maggot.

As Sheppard did not go home that night, nor the following day, his master suspected that he had made bad connections, and searching his trunk, found the piece of fustian that had been stolen; but Sheppard, hearing of this, broke open his master's house in the night, and carried off the fustian, lest it should be brought in evidence against him.

Sheppard's master sending intelligence to Mr. Bains of what had happened, the latter looked over his goods, and missing such a piece of fustian as had been described to him, suspected that

Sheppard must have been the robber, and determined to have him taken into custody; but Jack, hearing of the affair, went to him, and threatened a prosecution for scandal alledging that he had received the piece of fustian from his mother, who bought it for him in Spitalfields. The mother, with a view to screen her son, declared that what he had asserted was true, though she could not point out the place where she had made the purchase. Though this story was not credited, Mr. Bains did not take any farther steps in the affair.

Sheppard's master seemed willing to think well of him, and he continued some time longer in the family; but after associating himself with the worst of company, and frequently staying out the whole night, his master and he quarrelled, and the headstrong youth totally absconded in the last year of his apprenticeship, and became connected with a set of villains of Jonathan Wild's gang.

Jack now worked as a journeyman carpenter, with a view to the easier commission of robbery; and being employed to assist in repairing the house of a gentleman in May-Fair, he took an opportunity of carrying off a sum of money, a quantity of plate, some gold rings, and four suits of cloaths.

Not long after this Edgworth Bess was apprehended, and lodged in the Round-house of the parish of St. Giles's, where Sheppard went to visit her, and the beadle refusing to admit him, he knocked him down, broke open the door, and carried her off in triumph; an exploit which acquired him a high degree of credit with the women of abandoned character.

In the month of August, 1723, Thomas Sheppard, the brother of Jack, was indicted at the

Old Bailey, for two petty offences, and being convicted, was burnt in the hand. Soon after his discharge, he prevailed on Jack to lend him forty shillings, and take him as a partner in his robberies. The first fact they committed in concert was the robbing a public-house in Southwark, whence they carried off some money, and wearing apparel: but Jack permitted his brother to reap the whole advantage of this booty.

Not long after this, the brothers, in conjunction with Edgworth Bess, broke open the shop of Mrs. Cook, a linen-draper in Clare-market, and carried off goods to the value of fifty-five pounds; and in less than a fortnight afterwards stole some articles from the house of Mr. Phillip's in Drury-lane.

Tom Sheppard going to sell some of the goods stolen at Mrs. Cook's, was apprehended and committed to Newgate, when, in the hope of being admitted an evidence he impeached his brother and Edgworth Bess, but they were sought for in vain.

At length James Sykes, otherwise called Hell and Fury, one of Sheppard's companions, meeting with him in St. Giles's, enticed him into a public-house, in the hope of receiving a reward for apprehending him; and while they were drinking, Sykes sent for a constable, who took Jack into custody, and carried him before a magistrate, who, after a short examination, sent him to St. Giles's Round-house: but he broke through the roof of that place, and made his escape in the night.

Within a short time after this, as Sheppard and an associate, named Benson, were crossing Leicester-fields, the latter endeavoured to pick a gentleman's pocket of his watch, but failing in the at-

tempt, the gentleman called out "A pick-pocket," on which Sheppard was taken, and lodged in St. Anne's Round-house, where he was visited by Edgworth Bess, who was detained on suspicion of being one of his accomplices.

On the following day they were carried before a magistrate, and some persons appearing who charged them with felonies, they were committed to New-Prison; and as they passed for husband and wife, they were permitted to lodge together in a room known by the name of Newgate-Ward.

Sheppard being visited by several of his acquaintance, some of them furnished him with implements to make his escape, and early in the morning, a few days after his commitment, he filed off his fetters, and having made a hole in the wall, he took an iron bar and a wooden one out of the window; but as the height from which he was to descend was twenty-five feet, he tied a blanket and sheet together, and making one of them fast to a bar in the window, Edgworth Bess first descended, and Jack followed her.

Having reached the yard, they had still a wall of twenty-two feet high to scale; but climbing up by the locks and bolts of the great gate, they got quite out of the prison, and effected a perfect escape.

Sheppard's fame was greatly celebrated among the lower orders of people by this exploit; and the thieves of St. Giles's courted his company. Among the rest, one Charles Grace, a cooper, begged that he would take him as an associate in his robberies, alledging as a reason for this request, that the girl he kept was so extravagant, that he could not support her on the profits of his own thefts. Sheppard did not hesitate to make  
this

this new connection; but at the same time said that he did not admit of the partnership with a view to any advantage to himself, but that Grace might reap the profits of their depredations.

Sheppard and Grace making an acquaintance with Anthony Lamb, an apprentice to a mathematical instrument maker near St. Clement's church, it was agreed to rob a gentleman who lodged with Lamb's master, and at two o'clock in the morning Lamb let in the other villains, who stole money and effects to a large amount. They left the door open, and Lamb went to bed, to prevent suspicion: but notwithstanding this, his master did suspect him, and having him taken into custody, he confessed the whole affair before a magistrate, and being committed to Newgate, he was tried, convicted, and received sentence to be transported.

On the same day Thomas Sheppard (the brother of Jack) was indicted for breaking open the dwelling-house of Mary Cook, and stealing her goods, and being convicted, was sentenced to transportation.

Jack Sheppard not being in custody, he and Blueskin committed a number of daring robberies; and sometimes disposed of the stolen goods to William Field. Jack used to say that Field wanted courage to commit a robbery, though he was as great a villain as ever existed.

Sheppard seems to have thought that courage consisted in villainy; and if this were the case Field had an undoubted claim to the character of a man of courage; for in October. 1721, he was tried on four indictments for felony and burglary, and he was an accomplice in a variety of robberies. He was likewise an evidence against one of his associates on another occasion.

Shep-

Sheppard and Blueskin hired a stable near the Horse-Ferry, Westminster, in which they deposited their stolen goods, till they could dispose of them to the best advantage; and in this place they put the woollen cloth which was stolen from Mr. Kneebone; for Sheppard was concerned in this robbery, and at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in August, 1724, he was indicted for several offences, and among the rest, for breaking and entering the house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, and other articles, and being capitally convicted, received sentence of death.

We must now go back to observe, that Sheppard and Blueskin having applied to Field to look at these goods, and procure a customer for them, he promised to do so; nor was he worse than his word; for in the night he broke open their warehouse, and stole the ill-gotten property, and then gave information against them to Jonathan Wild, in consequence of which they were apprehended.

On Monday the 30th of August, 1724, a warrant was sent to Newgate for the execution of Sheppard, with other convicts under sentence of death.

It is proper to observe that in the old goal of Newgate there was, within the lodge, a hatch, with large iron spikes, which hatch opened into a dark passage, whence there were a few steps into the condemned hold. The prisoners being permitted to come down to the hatch to speak with their friends, Sheppard, having been supplied with instruments, took an opportunity of cutting one of the spikes in such a manner that it might be easily broken off.

On the evening of the above-mentioned 30th of August, two women of Sheppard's acquaintance going to visit him, he broke off the spike, and thrusting his head and shoulders through the space, the women pulled him down, and he effected his escape, notwithstanding some of the keepers were at that time drinking at the other end of the lodge.

On the day after his escape he went to a public-house in Spitalfields, whence he sent for an old acquaintance, one Page, a butcher in Claremarket, and advised with him how to render his escape effectual for his future preservation. After deliberating on the matter, they agreed to go to Warnden in Northampshire, where Page had some relations: and they had no sooner resolved than they made the journey: but Page's relations treating him with indifference, they returned to London after being absent only about a week.

On the night after their return, as they were walking up Fleet-street together, they saw a watchmaker's shop open, and only a boy attending: having passed the shop they turned back, and Sheppard driving his hand through the window, stole three watches, with which they made their escape.

Some of Sheppard's old acquaintance informing him that strict search was making after him, he and Page retired to Finchley, in hope of laying there concealed till the diligence of the goalkeepers should relax: but the keepers of Newgate having intelligence of their retreat, took Sheppard into custody, and conveyed him to his old lodgings.

Such steps were now taken as it was thought would be effectual to prevent his future escape.

He was put into a strong room called the Castle, hand-cuffed, loaded with a heavy pair of irons, and chained to a staple fixed in the floor.

The curiosity of the public having been greatly excited by his former escape, he was visited by great numbers of people of all ranks, and scarce any one left him without making him a present in money; though he would have more gladly received a file, a hammer, or a chissel; but the utmost care was taken that none of his visitors should furnish him with such implements.

Notwithstanding this disadvantageous situation, Sheppard was continually employing his thoughts on the means of another escape. On the 14th of October the sessions began at the Old Bailey, and the keepers being much engaged in attending the court, he thought they would have little time to visit him; and therefore the present juncture would be the most favourable to carry his plan into execution.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the following day one of the keepers carried him his dinner, and having carefully examined his irons, and finding them fast, he left him for the day.

Some days before this Jack had found a small nail in the room, with which he could, at pleasure, unlock the padlock that went from the chain to the staple in the floor; and in his own account of this transaction, he says, "that he was frequently about the room, and had several times slept on the barracks, when the keepers imagined he had not been out of his chair."

The keeper had not left him more than an hour when he began his operations. He first took off his hand-cuffs, and then opened the padlock that fastened the chain to the staple. He next, by mere strength, twisted asunder a small link of the chain



chain between his legs, and then drawing up his fetters as high as he could, he made them fast with his garters.

He then attempted to get up the chimney; but had not advanced far before he was stopped by an iron-bar that went across it; on which he descended, and with a piece of his broken chain picked out the mortar, and moving a small stone or two, about six foot from the floor, he got out the iron bar, which was three feet long and an inch square and proved very serviceable to him in his future proceedings.

He in a short time made such a breach as to enable him to get into the Red-room over the castle; and here he found a large nail, which he made use of in his farther operations. It was seven years since the door of this Red-room had been opened: but Sheppard wrenched off the lock in less than seven minutes, and got into the passage leading to the chapel. In this place he found a door which was bolted on the opposite side: but making a hole through the wall, he pushed the bolt back, and opened the door.

Arriving at the door of the chapel, he broke off one of the iron spikes, which keeping for his farther use, he got into an entry between the chapel and the lower leads. The door of this entry was remarkably strong, and fastened with a large lock; and night now coming on, Sheppard was obliged to work in the dark. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, he, in half an hour, forced open the box of the lock, and opened the door; but this led him to another room still more difficult, for it was barred and bolted as well as locked: however, he wrenched the fillet from

the main post of the door, and the box and staples came off with it.

It was now eight o'clock, and Sheppard found no farther obstruction to his proceedings; for he had only one other door to open, which being bolted on the inside, was opened without difficulty, and he got over a wall to the upper leads.

His next consideration was, how he should descend with the greatest safety; accordingly he found that the most convenient place for him to alight on would be the Turner's house adjoining to Newgate: but as it would have been very dangerous to have jumped to such a depth, he went back for the blanket with which he used to cover himself when he slept in the castle; and endeavoured to fasten his stocking to the blanket, to ease his descent; but not being able to do so, he was compelled to use the blanket alone: wherefore he made it fast to the wall of Newgate with the spike that he took out of the chapel; and sliding down, dropped on the turner's leads just as the clock was striking nine. It happened that the door of the garret next the turner's leads was open, on which he stole softly down two pair of stairs, and heard some company talking in a room. His irons clinking, a woman cried, "What noise is that?" and a man answered, "perhaps the dog or cat."

Sheppard, who was exceedingly fatigued, returned to the garret, and laid down for more than two hours: after which he crept down once more as far as the room where the company were, when he heard a gentleman taking his leave of the family, and saw the maid light him down stairs. As soon as the maid returned he resolved to venture at all hazards; but in stealing down the stairs he stumbled against a chamber-door; but

but instantly recovering himself, he got into the street.

By this time it was after twelve o'clock, and passing by the watch-house of St. Sepulchre, he bid the watchman good-morrow, and going up Holborn, he turned down Gray's-Inn-Lane, and about two in the morning got into the fields near Tottenham-Court, where he took shelter in a place that had been a cow-house, and slept soundly about three hours. His fetters being still on; his legs were greatly bruised and swelled; and he dreaded the approach of day-light, lest he should be discovered. He had now above forty shillings in his possession, but was afraid to send to any person for assistance.

At seven in the morning it began to rain hard; and continued to do so all day, so that no person appeared in the fields: and during this melancholy day he would, to use his own expression, "have given his right hand for a hammer, a chissel, and a punch." Night coming on, and being pressed by hunger, he ventured to a little chandler's shop in Tottenham-court-road, where he got a supply of bread cheese, small beer; and some other necessaries, hiding his irons with a long great coat. He asked the woman of the house for a hammer; but she had no such utensil; on which he retired to the cow-house, where he slept that night, and remained all the next day.

At night he went again to the chandler's shop, supplied himself with provisions, and returned to his hiding place. At six the next morning, which was Sunday, he began to beat the basils of his fetters with a stone, in order to bring them to an oval form, to slip his heels through. In the afternoon the master of the cow-house coming thither,

thither, and seeing his irons, said, "For God's sake who are you?" Sheppard said he was an unfortunate young fellow, who having had a bastard child sworn to him, and not being able to give security to the parish for its support, he had been sent to Bridewell, from whence he had made his escape. The man said if that was all it did not much signify, but he did not care how soon he was gone, for he did not like his looks.

Soon after he was gone Sheppard saw a journeyman shoemaker, to whom he told the same story of the bastard child, and offered him twenty shillings if he would procure a smith's hammer and a punch. The poor man, tempted by the reward, procured them accordingly, and assisted him in getting rid of his irons, which work was completed by five o'clock in the evening.

When night came on our adventurer tied a handkerchief about his head, tore his woollen cap in several places, and likewise tore his coat and stockings, so as to have the appearance of a beggar; and in this condition he went to a cellar near Charing-cross, where he supped on roasted veal, and listened to the conversation of the company, all of whom were talking of the escape of Sheppard,

On the Monday he sheltered himself at a public-house of little trade, in Rupert-street, and conversing with the landlady about Sheppard, he told her it was impossible for him to get out of the kingdom; and the keepers would certainly have him again in a few days; on which the woman wished that a curse might fall on those who should betray him. Remaining in this place till evening, he went into the Haymarket, where a croud of people were surrounding two ballad-singers

fingers, and listening to a song made on his adventures and escape.

On the next day he hired a garret in Newport-market, and soon afterwards, dressing himself like a porter, he went to Black-friars, to the house of Mr. Applebee, printer of the dying speeches, and delivered a letter, in which he ridiculed the printer, and the Ordinary of Newgate, and enclosed a letter for one of the keepers of Newgate.

Some nights after this he broke open the shop of Mr. Rawlins, a pawnbroker in Drury-lane, where he stole a sword, a suit of wearing apparel, some snuff-boxes, rings, watches, and other effects to a considerable amount. Determining to make the appearance of a gentleman among his old acquaintance in Drury-lane and Clare-market, he dressed himself in a suit of black and a tye-wig, wore a ruffled shirt, a silver hilted sword, a diamond ring, and a gold watch; though he knew that diligent search was making after him at that very time.

On the 31st of October he dined with two women at a public-house in Newgate-street, and about four in the afternoon they all passed under Newgate in a hackney coach, having first drawn up the blinds. Going in the evening to a public-house in May-pole Alley, Clare-market, Sheppard sent for his mother, and treated her with brandy, when the poor woman dropped on her knees, and begged he would immediately quit the kingdom, which he promised to do, but had no intention of keeping his word.

Being now grown valiant through an excess of liquor, he wandered from alehouses to gin-shops in the neighbourhood till near twelve o'clock at night, when he was apprehended in consequence of the information of an alehouse-boy who knew him.

him. When taken into custody he was quite senseless, from the quantity and variety of liquors he had drank, and was conveyed to Newgate in a coach, without being capable of making the least resistance, though he had two pistols then in his possession.

His fame was now so much increased by his exploits that he was visited by great numbers of people, and some of them of the highest quality. He endeavoured to divert them by a recital of the particulars of many robberies in which he had been concerned; and when any nobleman came to see him, he never failed to beg that they would intercede with the king for a pardon, to which he thought that his singular dexterity gave him some pretensions.

Having been already convicted, he was carried to the bar of the court of King's Bench on the 10th of November, and the record of his conviction being read, and an affidavit being made that he was the same John Sheppard mentioned in the record, sentence of death was passed on him by Mr. Justice Powis, and a rule of court was made for his execution on the Monday following.

He regularly attended the prayers in the chapel, but though he behaved with decency there, he affected mirth before he went thither, and endeavoured to prevent any degree of seriousness among the other prisoners on their return.

Even when the day of execution arrived, Sheppard did not appear to have given over all expectations of eluding justice; for having been furnished with a penknife, he put it in his pocket, with a view, when the melancholy procession came opposite Little Turnstile, to have cut the cord that bound his arms, and throwing himself out of the cart, among the crowd, to have run through

through the narrow passage, where the sheriffs officers could not follow on horseback; and he had no doubt but he should make his escape, by the assistance of the mob.

It is not impossible but that this scheme might have succeeded; but before Sheppard left the press-yard, one Watson, an officer, searching his pockets, found the knife and was cut with it, so as to occasion a great effusion of blood.

Sheppard had yet a farther view to his preservation, even after execution; for he desired his acquaintance to put him into a warm bed as soon as he should be cut down; and try to open a vein, which he had been told would restore him to life.

He behaved with great decency at the place of execution, and confessed the having committed two robberies, for which he had been tried and acquitted. He was executed at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1724, in the 23d year of his age. He died with difficulty, and was much pitied by the surrounding multitude. When he was cut down his body was delivered to his friends, who carried him to a public-house in Long-acre, whence he was removed in the evening, and buried in the church-yard of St. Martin in the Fields.

It is astonishing to think how much Sheppard and his adventures engaged the attention of the public. For a considerable time there was scarcely a subject of conversation but himself. There were several different histories of his life; and a variety of prints were worked off, representing his escapes from the condemned hold, and from the castle in Newgate; and there were likewise several other prints of his person; the best of which was a mezzotinto, done from an original painting of Sir James Thornhill, which gave rise to the following ingenious lines.

Thornhill,

Thornhill, 'tis thine to gild with fame  
 Th' obscure, and raise the humble name;  
 To make the form elude the grave,  
 And Sheppard from oblivion save.

Tho' life in vain the wretch implores,  
 An exile on the farthest shores,  
 Thy pencil brings a kind reprieve,  
 And bids the dying robber live.

This piece to latest time shall stand,  
 And shew the wonders of thy hand.  
 Thus former masters grac'd their name,  
 And gave egregious robbers fame.]]

Appelles, Alexander drew,  
 Cæsar is to Aurellius due,  
 Cromwell in Lely's works doth shine,  
 And Sheppard, Thornhill, lives in thine.

It was even thought proper to represent Sheppard's actions on the stage. A pantomime entertainment was contrived, in which the scenes were painted from the places of action. It bore the name of "Harlequin Sheppard; a night scene in "grotesque characters," and was represented at the Theatre Royal in Drury-lane.

Another piece was printed, but never acted at the Theatres. It was a farce of three acts, called "The Prison Breaker; or the Adventures of John Sheppard." After being neglected some time a number of songs and catches were intermixed with it; and having received the name of "The Quaker's Opera," it was exhibited at Bartholomew-Fair.

Sheppard's adventures were not thought unworthy the notice even of the pulpit. The following



lowing is given as the conclusion of a sermon preached soon after his second escape from Newgate.

—“Now, my beloved, what a melancholy consideration it is, that men should shew so much regard for the preservation of a poor perishing body, that can remain at most but a few years; and at the same time be so unaccountably negligent of a precious soul, which must continue to the age of eternity! O what care! what pains! what diligence! and what contrivances are made use of for, and laid out upon, these frail and tottering tabernacles of clay: when alas! the nobler part of us is allowed so very small a share of our concern, that we scarce will give ourselves the trouble of bestowing a thought upon it.

“We have a remarkable instance of this, in a notorious malefactor, well known by the name of Jack Sheppard! what amazing difficulties has he overcome, what astonishing things has he performed, for the sake of a stinking miserable carcase, hardly worth hanging? how dexterously did he pick the padlock of his chain with a crooked nail? how manfully did he burst his fetters asunder, climb up the chimney, wrench out an iron bar, break his way through a stone wall, and make the strong doors of a dark entry fly before him, till he got upon the leads of the prison? and then, fixing a blanket to the wall with a spike he stole out of the chapel, how intrepidly did he descend to the top of the Turner’s house, and how cautiously pass down the stairs, and make his escape at the street-door!

“ O that ye were all like Jack Sheppard!—  
 “ Mistake me not, my brethren, I don't mean in  
 “ a carnal, but in a spiritual sense, for I purpose  
 “ to spiritualize these things.——What a shame  
 “ it would be if we should not think it worth our  
 “ while to take as much pains, and employ as  
 “ many deep thoughts to save our souls, as he  
 “ has done to preserve his body!

“ Let me exhort ye then to open the *locks* of  
 “ your *hearts* with the *nail* of *repentance*; burst  
 “ asunder the *fetters* of your *beloved lusts*; mount  
 “ the *chimney* of *hope*, take from hence the *bar* of  
 “ *good resolution*, break through the *stone wall* of  
 “ *despair*, and all the *strong holds* in the *dark entry*  
 “ of the *valley of the shadow of death*: Raise your-  
 “ selves to the *leads* of *divine meditation*: Fix the  
 “ *blanket* of *Faith* with the *spike* of the *church*. Let  
 “ yourselves down to the *Turner's house* of *resigna-*  
 “ *tion*, and descend the *stairs* of *humility*: So shall  
 “ you come to the *door* of *deliverance* from the *pri-*  
 “ *son* of *iniquity*, and *escape* the clutches of that  
 “ old *executioner* the *devil*, who goeth about like  
 “ a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

After the long account we have given of this malefactor, it will be the less necessary to extend our remarks on his character. This history tells us how much more labour it requires to be a thief than an honest man. Indeed, if young people would but reflect for a moment, they would see that the practice of vice is, and must be, attended with the utmost pain and anxiety; and that  
 “ Wisdom's ways are pleasantness, and all her  
 “ paths are peace.” They must also be convinced that vice, by repetition, becomes at least so habitual, that notwithstanding the attending evils, we can seldom or ever leave it off.

Narrative of the Lives and Execution of THOMAS PACKER, and JOSEPH PICKEN, who were hanged at Tyburn for Robbery.

**T**HOMAS PACKER was a native of London, his father being a shoemaker in Butcherhall-lane, Newgate-street. He was bound apprentice to the master of the Ship-Tavern at Greenwich; but not being content in his situation, he was turned over to a vintner, who kept the Rummer-Tavern, near Red-lion-square; and having served the rest of his time, he lived as a waiter in different places.

He had not been long out of his time before he married; but the expences of his new connection, added to those arising from the extravagance of his disposition, soon reduced him to circumstances of distress.

JOSEPH PICKEN was likewise a native of London, being the son of a taylor in Clerkenwell; but his father dying while he was an infant, he was educated by his mother, who placed him with a vintner near Billingsgate, with whom he served an apprenticeship, after which he married, and kept the tap of the Mermaid Inn at Windsor: but his wife being a bad manager, and his business being much neglected, he was soon reduced to the utmost extremity of poverty.

Being obliged even to sell his bed, and sleep on the floor, his wife advised him to go on the highway, to supply their necessities. Fatally for him, he listened to her advice, and repaired to London, where, on the following day, he fell into company with Packer, who had been an old acquaintance.

The poverty of these unhappy men tempted them to make a speedy resolution of committing depredations on the public; in consequence of

which they hired horses as to go to Windsor; but instead thereof they rode towards Finchley, and, in a road between Highgate and Hornsey, they robbed two farmers, whom they compelled to dismount, and turned their horses loose.

Hastening to London with their ill-gotten booty, they went to a public-house in Monmouth-street, where one of them taking his handkerchief out of his pocket, accidentally drew out his pistol with it, which being remarked by a person in company, he procured a peace-officer, who took them into custody on suspicion.

Having been lodged in the Round-house for that night, they were taken before a magistrate on the following day; and being separately examined, disagreed much in their tale; and the parties who had been robbed attending, and swearing to their persons, they were committed for trial.

When they were brought to the bar they endeavoured to prove that they were absent from the spot at the time that the robbery was committed; but failing in this, a verdict of guilty was given against them, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction they behaved with every sign of contrition. Picken was in a very bad state of health almost the whole time he lay under sentence of death; and complained much of the ingratitude of his wife, who first advised him to the commission of the crime, yet never visited him during his miserable confinement in Newgate. These unhappy men prepared to meet their fate with decent resignation, and received the sacrament with every sign of genuine devotion.

They were executed at Tyburn on the 1st of February, 1725, but were so shocked at the idea  
of

of their approaching dissolution, that they trembled with the dreadful apprehension, and were unable to give that advice to the surrounding multitude, which, however, might be easily implied from their pitiable condition.

It does not appear, from any account transmitted to us, that these men had been guilty of any robbery but the single one for which they suffered.

Hence we may learn how very short is the date of vice! It may be urged that the extremity of their poverty was a temptation to the commission of the crime; but let it be remembered that a state of the most abject poverty is preferable to the life of a thief. An honest man, be he ever so poor, need not blush to look the first man in the kingdom in the face.

The man who does unto others as he would they should do unto him, will enjoy the approbation of his own conscience; and may consider himself as equal in character to the greatest monarch in the universe.

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The Transactions, Trial, and Execution of  
VINCENT DAVIS, who was hanged at Tyburn  
for the Murder of his Wife.

**T**HIS malefactor, who followed the trade of a butcher in Smithfield, behaved with cruelty to his wife, and, though he had been married some years, accustomed himself to keep company with women of ill fame.

Going out one Sunday morning he staid till noon; and coming home to dinner went out again soon afterwards, and was directly followed by his wife, who found him drinking with some bad women at a house in Pye-corner; and coming home, mentioned this circumstance to her neighbours.

Soon

Soon afterwards the husband returned; and using some threatening expressions, the wife desired a lodger in the same house to go down stairs with her, lest he should beat her. The woman accordingly attended her, and was witness to Davis's beating her in a barbarous manner, and threatening to murder her because she had interrupted him while in the company of the other women. Hereupon the wife ran away, and secreted herself for a time; but returning to her lodgings, begged admission into her landlady's room, who hid her behind the bed.

In the interim the husband had been out: but returning, went to bed, and when his wife thought he was asleep, she went into the room to search his pockets, in which she found only a few halfpence, and coming down stairs said that her husband had laid a knife by the bed side, from which she concluded that he had an intention of murdering her.

Mrs. Davis being concealed during the night, the landlady went into her husband's room in the morning, and said, "What do you mean by threatening to commit murder in my house?" On this he snatched up his knife, and the landlady having taken hold of a small cane, he took it from her, saying he valued it as his life; as he kept it to beat his wife with.

In the evening of this day the wife and landlady finding him at the before mentioned house in Pye-Corner, he beat his wife most severely; on which the landlady advised Mrs. Davis to swear the peace against him, and have him imprisoned, as she had done on a former similar occasion. About an hour after this he went home, and said to his wife, "What business have you here, or any  
" where

VINCENT DAVIS—*for Murder of his Wife.* 415

“ where in my company?—You shall follow me  
“ no more; for I am married to little Jenny.”

The wife who seems to have had more love for him than such a miscreant deserved, said she could not help it, but she would drink with him and be friends; and, on his taking his supper to an ale-house, she followed him; but soon returned with her hand bloody, saying he had cut her fingers.

On his return he directed his wife to light him to his room, which she did, and earnestly entreated him to be reconciled to her; but instead of making any kind of reply, he drew his knife, and following her into the landlady's room, he there stabbed her in the breast.

Thus wounded, the poor wretch ran down stairs, and was followed by the murderer. She was sheltered in a neighbouring house, where sitting down, and pulling off her stomacher, she bled to death in about half an hour.

In the interim the landlady called the watchmen; who soon apprehended Davis, and conducted him to the house where the dead woman lay; on which he said, “ Betty, won't you speak to  
“ me?” A woman who was present said, “ You  
“ will find to your sorrow, that she will never  
“ speak more;” and to this the murderer replied,  
“ Well, I know I shall be hanged; and I would  
“ as soon suffer for her as another.”

Being committed to the care of a peace-officer, he was conveyed to prison, in his way to which he said “ I have killed the best wife in the world,  
“ and I am certain of being hanged; but for  
“ God's sake don't let me be anatomized.”

When he was brought to his trial, the above recited facts were proved by the testimony of several witnesses; and on the jury pronouncing the  
verdict

verdict of guilty, he execrated the court with the most profane imprecations.

While he lay under sentence of death he affected a false bravery, but when orders were given for his execution, his assumed courage left him, and he appeared greatly terrified at his approaching fate. He had such a dread of falling into the hands of the surgeons, that he sent letters to several of his acquaintance, begging they would rescue his body, if any attempt should be made to take it away.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 30th of April, 1725, behaving in the most gloomy and reserved manner at the place of execution.

The anxiety this miserable wretch expressed for the care of his body after having perpetrated such an unprovoked murder as he might well suppose would hazard the salvation of his soul, affords a melancholy picture how much concerned we can be for smaller matters, to the neglect of the more important. It should teach us how superior the value of the soul is, to that of a poor frail carcass; since the former must exist to all eternity, while the latter, in a few years at the most, will moulder into dust.

It would be needless to expatiate on the character of this inhumane man, whose depraved nature must make all good people lament, that so much cruelty and vice should ever had existence in a Christian land.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.







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